63 JUN

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SPECIAL PREVIEW OF THE X-MEN T.V. SHOW!

MARVEL AGE®

Stan Lee presents

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SALICRUP'S SECTION

Welcome to our special X-MEN preview issue. We pulled out all the stops to cram in as many character designs, full-color animation cells, story details, and behind-the-scenes information as we could. We even got **Russ Heath**, who designed all the model sheets for the show, to not only pencil and ink our cover, but to color it too! And that's not all! MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE has just learned that mighty Marvel might produce a special comic book edition of the animated **X-Men** pilot! It would utilize the actual artwork done for animation in the same manner our ROCK AND RULE SUPER SPECIAL did a few years back. And that's not all! We just received every single cell that was done for the show from the far-off animation studio in Japan! That's a thousand pounds of original animation artwork! We haven't figured out what to do with it yet, other than reproduce several cells here in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, but we're considering ways of offering them to the legion of X-Men fans who would definitely want to own an original piece of art from this landmark episode. Just stick with us every month and we'll keep you up to date on this and all other X-Men developments right here in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE.

Now back to my never-ending crusade against the use of the term Marvel Zombie. Believe it or not, we just got a letter from Hamilton, New Zealand commenting on the crisis! This is beginning to spread to every corner on Earth! Soon no one will be safe! Anyway, **Peter Stringer** writes, "Nice to see that someone's finally getting into this 'Marvel Zombie' rubbish. Not that I think it'll do any good. Unfortunately the people responsible are not the type to read MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. In fact, they probably consider themselves above anything produced by Marvel." Well, don't give up hope, Peter, perhaps I might be preaching to the converted, but my mail has been telling me otherwise. Just check out some of the letters I've run in this space from Marvel Zombie supporters over the past few months. Next month I'll let you in on a new twist that may finally turn the tide in this bizarre battle. Be here!

—Jim Salicrup

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"SLEEP-- DEATH'S SECOND SELF."

ROBERT B. PARKER
A SAVAGE PLACE

HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HUNTING IT? ALL NIGHT?

FOREVER?

DOESN'T MATTER. NOTHING MATTERS.

I'VE GOT TO KEEP ON. DO WHATEVER I HAVE TO. GOT TO FIND IT.

SO I CAN KILL IT...

MARVEL®

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Here is a complete checklist of what's happening in all the **Marvel, Epic, Star** and **New Universe** titles bearing a **July** cover date.

The shocking climax to the saga of the gamma bombs . . . and a new direction for **the Incredible Hulk**! The **Avengers** — forced to kill one of their closest allies! And **Spider-Man** meets a man with the proportionate abilities of a jack rabbit! That's just a hint of the excitment you can expect next month! Don't risk missing out on the fun. Tell your comics shop owner to reserve your favorite titles right now!

Titles Shipping March 1
On Sale March 22

☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS** #34 — As if the **Whackos'** being in jail wasn't bad enough, **Quicksilver's** back to cause *more* trouble for the team! Will even the **Vision** and the **Scarlet Witch** be enough to help the **West Coasters**? "The Man in the Ant Hill" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Al Milgrom**, and inked by **Mike Machlan**. 75¢.

WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE BETTY WOULD UP AND MOVE LIKE THAT. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT AS IMPULSIVE AS A SEQUOIA.
I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE BUGLE, FIND OUT HER NEW ADDRESS. TALK TO HER. THIS WHOLE THING SMELLS WRONG...

Spider-Man tries to save Betty — from being saved in WEB OF SPIDER-MAN.

☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN** #40 — **Spider-Man** knew that **Betty Brant Leeds** has been troubled ever since her husband died. But even the wall-crawler never suspected that **Betty's** quest for serenity would lead her into the arms of a religious cult! Written by **Peter David**, penciled by **Alex Saviuk**, and inked by **Keith Williams**. $1.00.

☐ **TALES OF G.I. JOE** #7 — Re-presenting from G.I. JOE #7: The **Joes** are forced to join forces with their Russian counterparts, the October Guard, in a desperate attempt to scale the "Walls of Death!" Plotted and penciled by **Herb Trimpe**, scripted by **Larry Hama**, and inked by **Chic Stone**. 32 pages. Baxter paper. $1.50.

☐ **S.H.I.E.L.D. Limited Series #1** — For years, **Nick Fury** has led S.H.I.E.L.D. But the spy network has become corrupt and **Fury's** got to go underground to fight it . . . even though it means fighting — and killing — some of his closest friends as well! Written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Paul Neary**, and inked by **Kim DeMulder**. Cover painting by **Jim Steranko**. A six-issue Limited Series. 48 pages. Bookshelf format. $3.50.

☐ **POWER PACK** #38 — When a gang threatens **Julie's** friends, the young heroine has to find a way to defend them . . . without revealing her density-manipulating powers! "Little Bo Peep Has Lost Her Sheep" is penciled by **Sal Velluto**, inked by **Stan Drake**, and features the scripting debut of **Louise Simonson's** daughter, **Julianna Jones**! Direct sales only. $1.00.

☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI** #20 — When the new **Morituri** find the late **Vyking's** tape recorder and autobiography, the stage is set for a landmark tale in the annals of the **Morituri**. All the loose ends surrounding the old **Morituri** are tied up, as the new generation prepares to take over — even though the fledgling heroes know it will cost them their lives! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Brent Anderson**, and inked by **Scott Williams**. Direct sales only. $1.00.

A **Limited Series** is a title which will only run for a specific number of issues.

A **Graphic Novel** is an 8½" × 11" paperback edition.

A **Digest** is a 4¾" × 6⅝" paperback edition.

A **Trade Paperback** is a 7" × 10" paperback edition.

Bookshelf format is a high-quality, stiff-covered comic book edition.

A **Direct Sales** title is available only at selected outlets.

Shipping Date refers to when the comics leave the printer.

☐ **BLACK PANTHER Limited Series #1** — **T'Challa** became the **Black Panther** when the mystic Panther Spirit entered his body. But as this four-issue Limited Series opens, the Spirit has left him! And if he doesn't regain it quickly, **T'Challa's** going to lose more than his jungle-honed abilities — he's going to become a man without a country too! Written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Denys Cowan**, and inked by **Sam De La Rosa**. 32 pages. Mando paper. $1.25.

☐ **DAREDEVIL** #256 — The **Kingpin's** company is on trial. The jury is about to reach a verdict, and the **Kingpin** has ordered **Typhoid Mary** to make sure that it's "not guilty"! Somehow **Daredevil** must stop her. But how can he defeat a woman that even the **Kingpin** cannot resist? "Blindspots" is written by **Ann Nocenti**, penciled by **John Romita Jr.**, and inked by **Al Williamson**. 75¢.

new universe™

☐ **PSI FORCE** #21 — The **C.I.A.** has sent **Spitfire** to Canada to capture **Wayne** and **Tyrone**! **Wayne's** got a plan to escape the armored assassin, but it means turning his back on the people who've been helping him! "Spitfire, Teeth, and Blood" is written by **Fabian Nicieza**, penciled by **Ron Lim**, and inked by **Mike Witherby**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE** #8 — There's a giant jewel robbery in progress — and **Heathcliff** and **Iggy** are caught up in the middle of it! What follows is a hilarious romp involving thieves, the mysterious secret of a **Pharaoh's** tomb, and "King Cat-Too-Fat's Treasure!" Written by **Angelo DeCesare**, penciled by **Warren Kremer**, and inked by **Jacqueline Roettcher**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **CONAN THE KING** #47 — **Conan's** son, **Conn**, has been captured, and the jester **Rufio** is off to the rescue! Can a mere jester be a match for an evil sorcerer and a wicked queen? The answer's not what you think! Written by **Don Kraar** and drawn by **Tony DeZuniga**. 48 pages. $1.50.

Titles Shipping March 8
On Sale March 29

☐ **SOLO AVENGERS** #8 — Two action-packed tales for the price of one!

You'd think **Hawkeye** would welcome a new costumed hero, wouldn't you? Well, not when the "hero" is a brutal vigilante! "Blind Justice" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Mark Bright**, and inked by **José Marzan**.

Plus: **Dr. Pym** may not be able to grow and shrink anymore, but his old enemy **Dr. Nemesis** still can! When **Dr. Nemesis** returns for revenge, how can the scientific adventurer survive? Written by **Mike Barr**, penciled by **Larry Alexander**, and inked by **José Marzan**. 75¢.

☐ **STRANGE TALES** #16 — Two — count 'em — two gripping yarns in a single comic book!

Cloak knew there'd be trouble when he asked a favor from the fiendish **Mr. Jip**. But he did it anyway, and now, **Mr. Jip** wants something in return — namely, **Dagger**! "Bitter Obligations" is scripted by **Terry Austin**, penciled by **Dan Lawlis**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**.

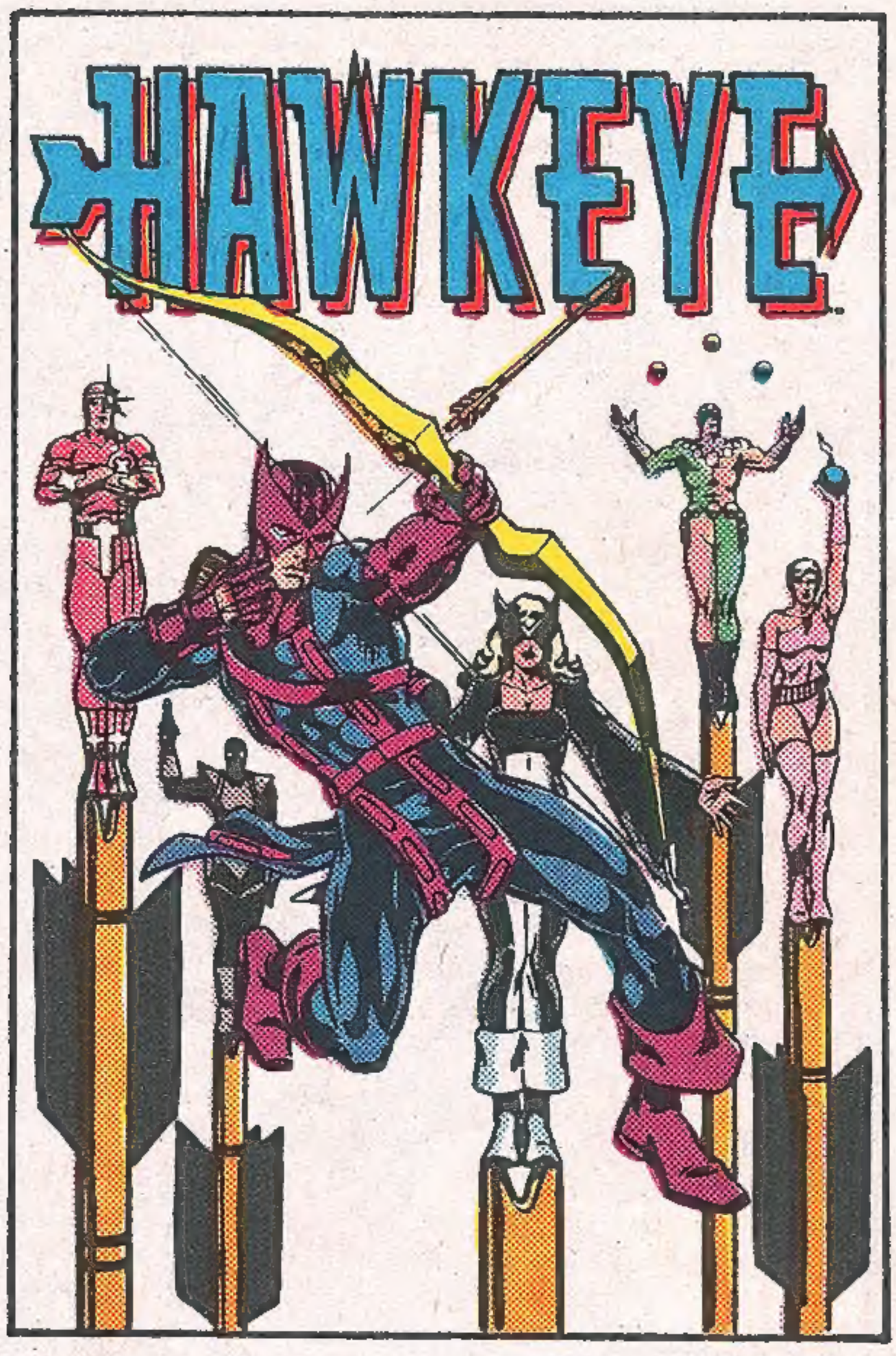
Also: **Kaluu** and **Rintrah** think they've found a way to restore **Dr. Strange** to his human form . . but they've got to survive a trip into **Doc's** never-before-revealed past to do it! "Go Ask Alice" is written by **Peter B. Gillis**, penciled by **Richard Case**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. 75¢.

☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #343 — Talk about action, this issue has it! The **Captain**, **D-Man**, the **Falcon** and **Nomad** vs. the **Viper** and her legions and the new **Captain America** and **Battle Star** vs. the most dangerous mutant force since the **Brotherhood of Evil Mutants** — the radical mutant liberation front called the **Resistants**! They're violently opposed to registration of mutants — and wait'll you see *how* violent! Written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Kieron Dwyer**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. 75¢.

☐ **SPIDER-MAN COMICS MAGAZINE** #10 — Reprinting **Spidey's** battles with two of his oldest foes and one of his newest from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #s 80–82! Who but the web-slinger could not only take on a master of disguise, a high-jumping Australian, and a high-voltage heel, but also ruin his costume in the process? "On the Trail of the Chameleon," "The Coming of the Kangaroo," and "And Then Came Electro" are written by **Stan Lee**, penciled by **John Romita Sr.** and **John Buscema**, and inked by **Jim Mooney**. A Marvel digest. 64 pages. $1.50.

SUPER-VILLAIN CHECKLIST

Blind Justice — SOLO AVENGERS #8
Dead Dove — NEW MUTANTS #65
Dream Queen — ALPHA FLIGHT #60
Dr. Nemesis — SOLO AVENGERS #8
Firepower — IRON MAN #232
Infectia and the Antibodies — X-FACTOR #30
Kaluu — STRANGE TALES #16
Kang — AVENGERS #293
The Kingpin — DAREDEVIL #256
The Leader — INCREDIBLE HULK #345
Madame X — WEST COAST AVENGERS #34
Marinna — AVENGERS #293
Mr. Jip — STRANGE TALES #16
Nero — AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #302
Quicksand — THOR #393
Rock and Redeemer — INCREDIBLE HULK #345
The Serpent Society — CAPTAIN AMERICA #343
Tombstone — SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #302
El Toro — WEST COAST AVENGERS #34
Typhoid Mary — DAREDEVIL #256
Viper — CAPTAIN AMERICA #343



☐ **HAWKEYE** Trade Paperback — Re-presenting **Hawkeye's** four-issue Limited Series in a high-quality paperback edition. Join the swashbuckling bowman as a trail of mystery and intrigue leads him into battle with (and eventual marriage to) the beautiful and formidable **Mockingbird!** Written and penciled by **Mark Gruenwald**, and inked by **Brett Breeding** and **Danny Bulanadi**. 96 pages. $5.95.

☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN** #149 — Deep in the heart of the jungle, **Conan** becomes the slave of a would-be emperor! But as any **Conan** follower knows, the savage **Cimmerian** won't take that kind of treatment for long! "Slaves of the Circle" is written by **Chuck Dixon**, penciled by **Tom Grindberg**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. A black and white Marvel magazine. 64 pages. $2.00.

☐ **ALF** #5 — **Bryan's** ventriloquist dummy's been accidentally destroyed, and he's got to find a substitute in a hurry. But when **ALF** offers to fill in, well, there's no telling *what* he'll say during the big school show! "Stand-In by Me" is written by **Michael Gallagher**, penciled by **Dave Manak**, and inked by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #302 — You already know that **Spider-Man** has the proportionate strength and speed of a spider. But did you ever wonder what would happen if he ran up against someone with the abilities of a bigger animal? That's what happens when ol' **Webhead** travels to the heart of Kansas to face a foe with the proportionate abilities of a jack rabbit! Written by **David Michelinie** and illustrated by **Todd McFarlane**. $1.00.

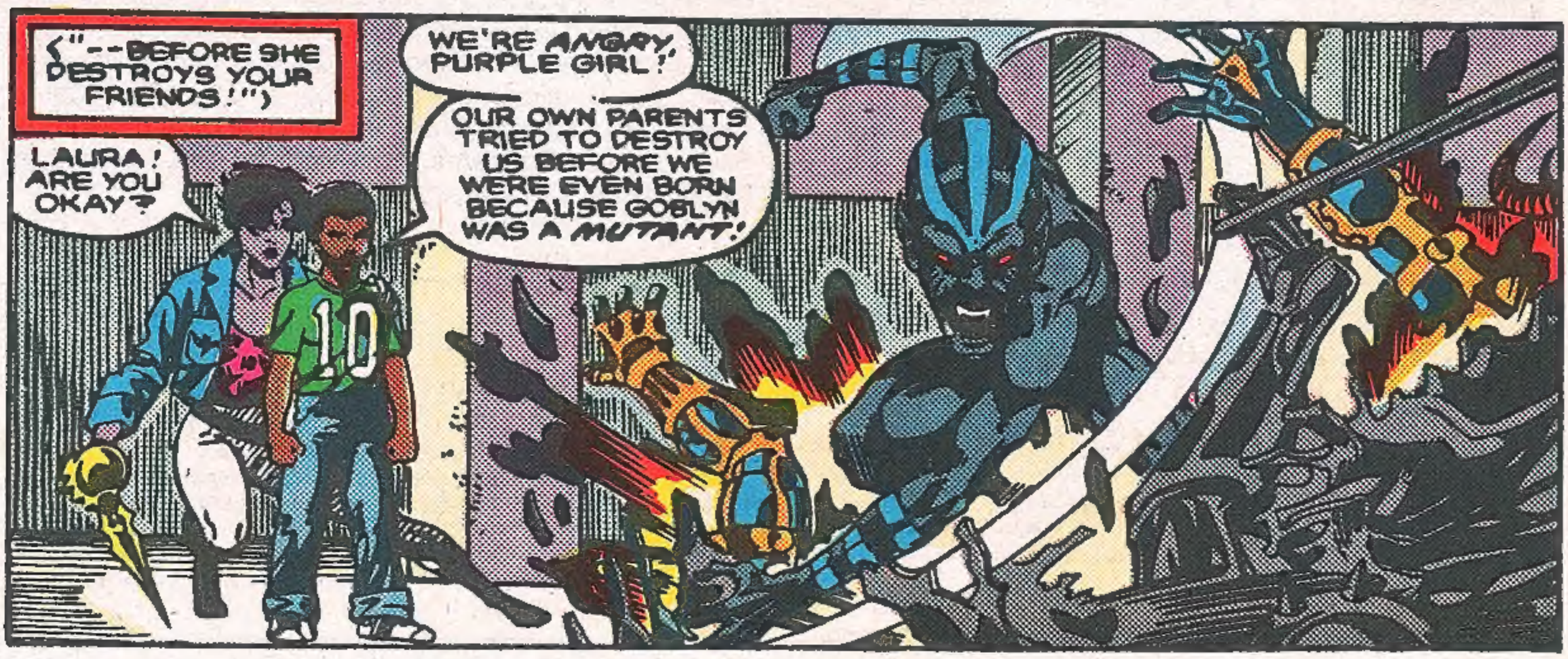
☐ **GROO THE WANDERER** #41 — How did **Groo** become such a klutz? The answer is revealed at last as **Sergio Aragones** and **Mark Evanier** reveal what **Groo** was like as a child! An Epic comic. $1.00.

☐ **THE NEW MUTANTS** #65 — Imagine how you'd feel if the god you worshipped suddenly stared you in the face. That's how **Magma** feels when she meets the one and only **Hercules**! Written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Louis Williams**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.00.

☐ **POWERLINE** #1 — Caught in the crossfire of an ancient feud, two teenage members of the secret Shadow race discover that their usually weak powers become tremendously enhanced when they unite. But will their newfound strength help them survive, or condemn them to a more rapid death? "Nexus" is written by **D.G. Chichester** and **Margaret Clark**, penciled by **Dave Ross**, and inked by **Bob McLeod**. The second book in the Shadow Line Saga. An Epic comic. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **VIDEO JACK** #4 — Things go from bizarre to terrifying as **Jack** and the population of his hometown take a mad tour through the worlds of *Leave It to Beaver* and *Aliens!* The biggest question might just be which world poses the greater threat! Written by **Cary Bates**. An Epic Comic. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT** #60 — **Alpha Flight's** in Tibet. But so's the diabolical **Dream Queen**, not to mention the Chinese Army! When Canada's premiere super-team gets caught between the two, it could trigger an international incident! "War — What Is It Good for?" is scripted by **Bill Mantlo**, penciled by **Jim Lee**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. Direct sales only. $1.00.


LAURA! ARE YOU OKAY?
WE'RE ANGRY, PURPLE GIRL!
OUR OWN PARENTS TRIED TO DESTROY US BEFORE WE WERE EVEN BORN BECAUSE GOBLYN WAS A MUTANT!
"--BEFORE SHE DESTROYS YOUR FRIENDS!")

There's non-stop action and drama in ALPHA FLIGHT!

☐ **MOEBIUS 6: PHARAGONESIA AND OTHER STRANGE STORIES** — There's something for everyone in this collection of some of **Moebius's** best short stories, ranging from the whimsical "Hunt for the Vacationing Frenchman" to the socially conscious "White Nightmare!" And of course, every story has the weird and fantastic feel you've come to expect from the French writer/artist. A 72-page graphic novel. For mature readers. $9.95.

Titles Shipping March 15
On Sale April 5

new universe™

☐ **D.P. 7 #21** — **D.P. 7** are prisoners of the Army. And the paranormals in the Clinic are about to wage war against a posse of state troopers. Will the Clinic survive? And where are the **DD Teens**? *Plus:* a 6-page featurette which reveals whatever happened to **Kickers, Inc.** "Siege" is written by **Mark Gruenwald**, penciled by **Paul Ryan**, and inked by **Danny Bulanadi**. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **JUSTICE #21** — Jailed in a Federal prison, **Justice** begins to lose his grip on reality. Will the hallucinations he suffers turn him into the ultimate killing machine? Written by **Peter David** and penciled by **Lee Weeks**. Direct Sales only. $1.25.

☐ **MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #64** — Get the full lowdown on all the 1988 Marvel annuals! Plus: **Stan's** Soapbox, **Hembeck's** Page, the Mutant Report, and all the other features you know and love. Direct sales only. 50¢.

☐ **AIR RAIDERS #5** — When the rebel leader **Rokk** and the tyrannical **Lord Aerozar** stumble onto a lost city, they discover an ancient evil lurking within! Unless the pair can work together to combat the menace, all of Airlandia will be doomed! "Edge of Darkness" is scripted by **George Caragonne**, penciled by **Kelley Jones**, and inked by **Jim Sinclair**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **VISIONARIES #5** — The **Visionaries** embark on an epic quest for a set of mystic objects that can save their world . . . or destroy it! Join the **Visionaries** in their search as "The Quest Begins!" Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Mark Bagley**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **G.I. JOE #73** — There's a civil war brewing among the forces of **Cobra** when **Serpentor** and **Dr. Mindbender** split off from the group and try to take over! But the biggest shock is **Dr. Mindbender's** ally — the U.S. Government! "Divided We Fall" is written by **Larry Hama**, penciled by **Ron Wagner**, and inked by **Randy Emberlin**. $1.00.

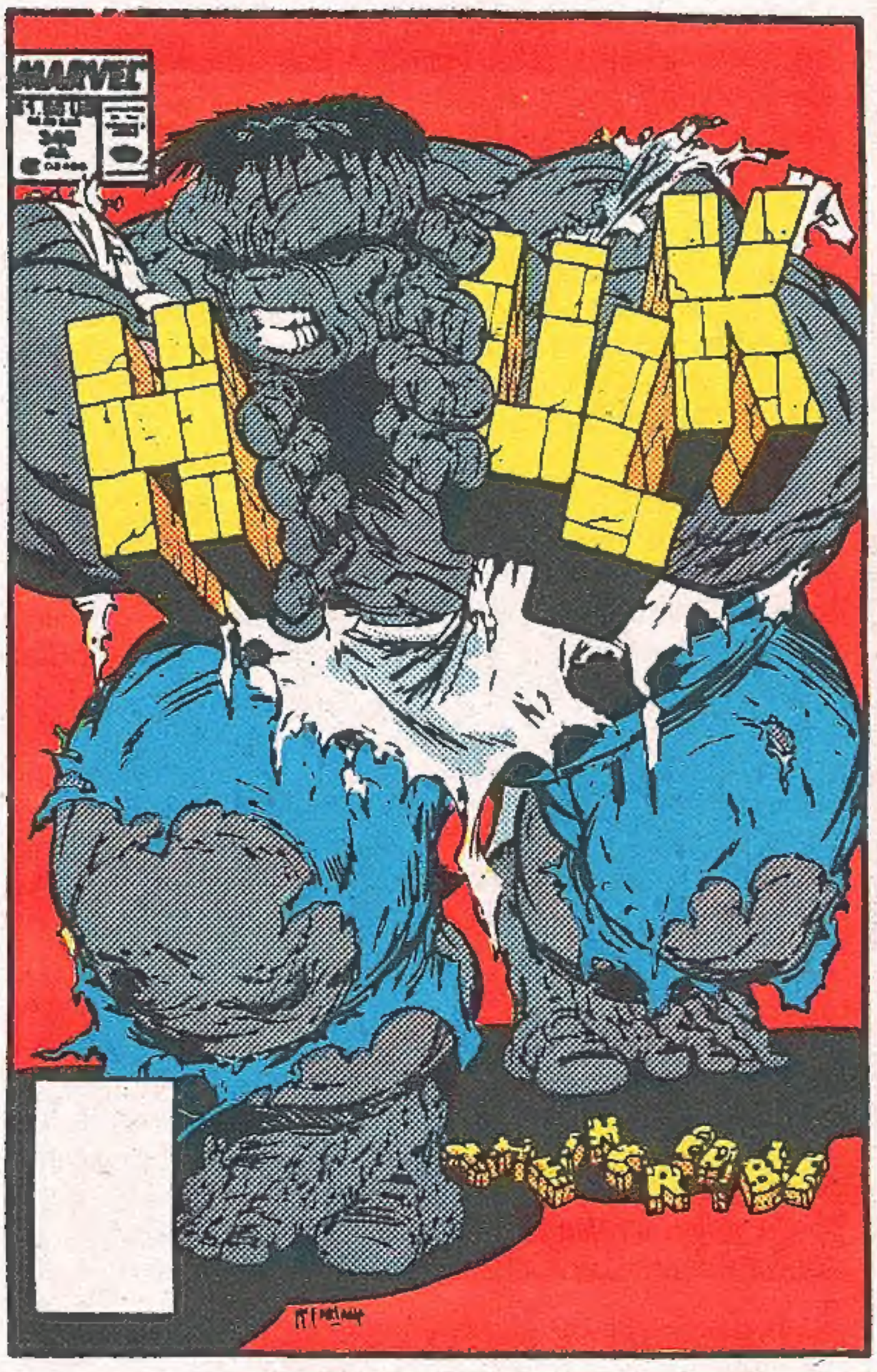
☐ **THE AVENGERS #293** — The **Sub-Mariner's** wife **Marinna** has become a raging **Leviathan**! And the only way the Avengers can stop her is by killing her! Can the awesome **Assemblers** bring themselves to kill their one-time friend and ally? And even if they can, do they have the power to do it? Written by **Walt Simonson**, penciled by **John Buscema**, and inked by **Tom Palmer**. $1.00.

☐ **MARVEL TALES #213** — Re-presenting from GIANT-SIZE SPIDER-MAN #4: **Moses Magnum** has a deadly nerve gas, and he's ready to use it! Only **Spider-Man** and **the Punisher** stand in his way, as they battle against overwhelming odds in the "Death-Camp at the End of the L!" Written by **Gerry Conway**, penciled by **Ross Andru**, and inked by **Mike Esposito**. Plus: a classic **Silver Surfer** story from FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #4 by **Stan Lee** and **Jack Kirby**. 75¢.

☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #208** — **Kobe** has been through thick and thin with **Conan**. Now, **Kobe's** father **Heku** wants to give **Kobe** his throne. The only problem is — **Kobe** doesn't want it! Written by **Jim Owsley**, penciled by **Val Semeiks**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. $1.00.

☐ **MUPPET BABIES #20** — **Kermit** becomes **Robin Hood**, **Fozzie** becomes **Little John**, and **Piggy** (of course) becomes **Maid Marian** as the **Muppet Babies** retell a classic legend like it's never been retold before! And just wait till you see who the **Sheriff of Nannyham** is! "Robin Hood and his Merry Muppets" is written by **Laura Hitchcock** and illustrated by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **BULLWINKL AND ROCKY #5** — Hokey smokes! This comic book has been hijacked! When the villainous **Boris** and **Natasha** decide to tell the world their side of the story, they take over BULLWINKLE AND ROCKY to do it! "Ve are the real heroes," says **Boris**. "The moose and squirrel are the bad guys!" "The Backwards Boys" is scripted by **Dave Manak**, penciled by **Ernie Colon**, and inked by **Al Milgrom**. A Star Comic. $1.00.



Titles Shipping March 22
On Sale April 12

☐ **THE FANTASTIC FOUR** #316 — Thanks to the help of **Ka-Zar**, **Shanna**, **Morbius**, and **Comet Man**, **the Thing** discovers more clues to the puzzle of the mystery in space. Meanwhile, **Crystal**, **Ms. Marvel**, and **the Torch** must battle the sinister forces of **A.I.M.** to save **Alicia Storm**. And if all that wasn't enough, wait'll you get to the most shocking climax you'll see in a Marvel comic all year! Scripted by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Keith Pollard**, and inked by **Joe Sinnott**. 75¢.

☐ **IRON MAN** #232 — **Iron Man** faced an awful lot of tough battles in his war on armored villains. But now he faces his greatest battle of all, as he wrestles with his conscience over the deaths he's caused! Co-plotted, penciled, and colored by **Barry Windsor-Smith**, co-plotted and scripted by **David Michelinie**, and inked by **Bob Layton**. 75¢.

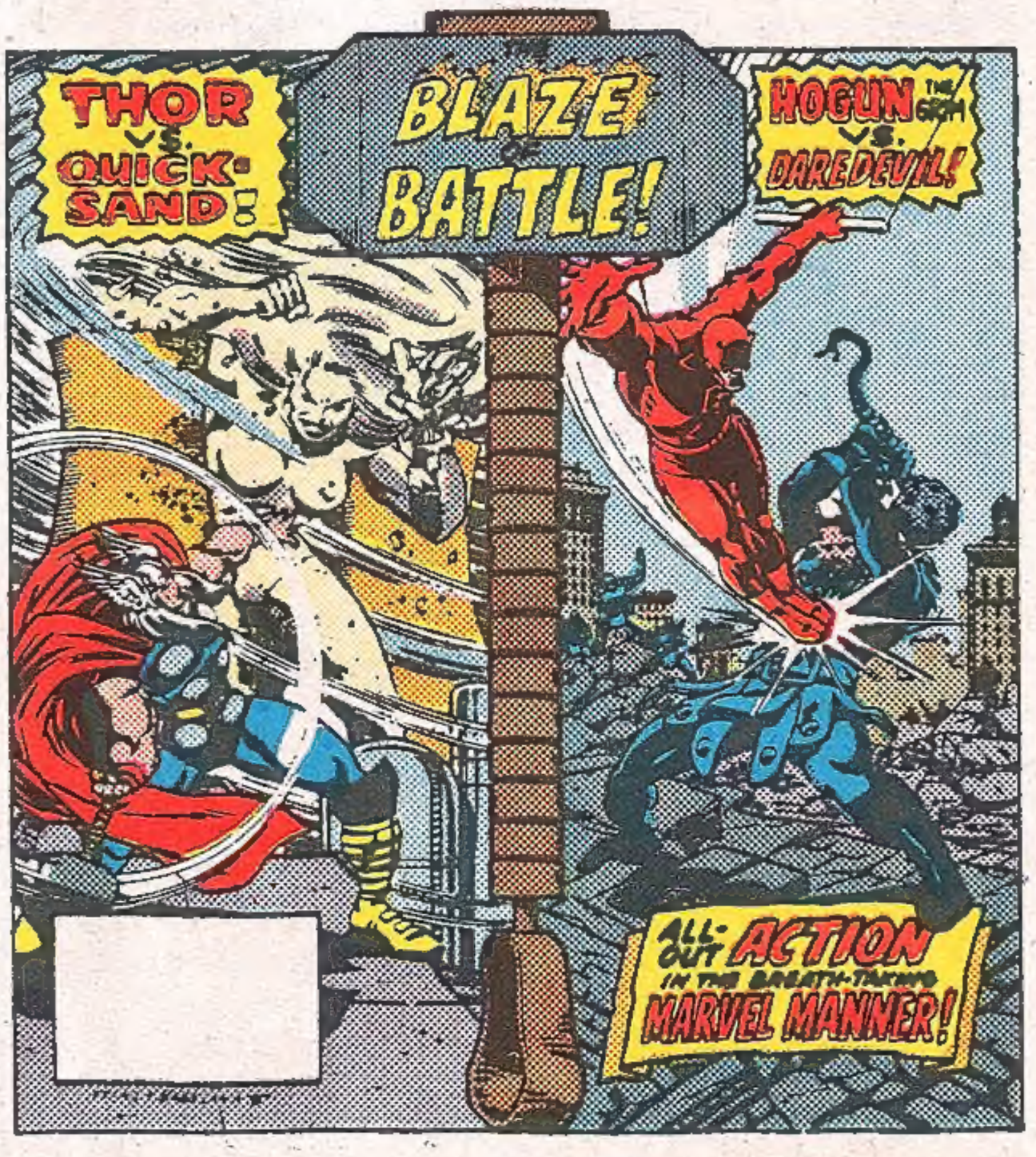
☐ **CARE BEARS** #17 — Don't look now, but there's one too many **Care Bears** in Care-a-Lot! No one knows where the latest **Care Bear** came from — or how to get rid of him! "The Space Care Bear Caper" is written by **David Polter**, pencils by **Howard Post**, and inked by **Roberta Edelman**.

☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN** #23 — From the pages of THE UNCANNY X-MEN #117 comes a rare glimpse into **Professor Xavier's** life before he formed the **X-Men**, as he takes on a telepath whose powers are even greater than his own! "Psi War" written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **John Byrne**, and inked by **Terry Austin**. Also: An all-new story starring **Nightcrawler**, written by **Chris Claremont** and illustrated by **John Bolton**. $1.00.

☐ **THE INCREDIBLE HULK** #345 — This is it — the double-sized spectacular you've been waiting for! The final fate of the gamma bombs! The **Leader's** plot to destroy an entire town! And a major turning point in the life of the **Hulk**! Scripted by **Peter David**, penciled by **Todd McFarlane**, and inked by **Jim Saunders**. 48 pages. $1.50.

☐ **THE UNCANNY X-MEN** #231 — Thinking her brother **Colossus** dead, **Illyana** uses her sorcerous powers to resurrect him. But considering that **Colossus** never really died, who — or *what* — has **Illyana** raised from the dead?! "Baba Yaga" is written by **Chris Claremont**, penciled by **Rick Leonardi**, and inked by **Dan Green**. $1.00.

☐ **AMAZING ADVENTURES** #1 — From all over history comes an 80-page anthology of hard-hitting action and far-out fantasy! Tour some of the most exotic locales of all time with writers **Chris Claremont**, **Mike Baron**, **J. Marc DeMatteis**, and **Steve Perry** and artists **Mike Golden**, **Terry Austin**, **Mike Vosburg**, **Hugh Thomas**, **Val Mayerik**, **John Ridgway**, and **Rick Veitch**. Direct sales only. Bookshelf format. $4.95.



☐ **SILVER SURFER** #13 — The **Silver Surfer** — a ruthless killer? That's what the galaxy thinks. And the only way the **Surfer** can clear his name is by bringing his evil twin to justice! "Masques" is written by **Steve Englehart**, penciled by **Joe Staton**, and inked by **Joe Rubinstein**. $1.00.

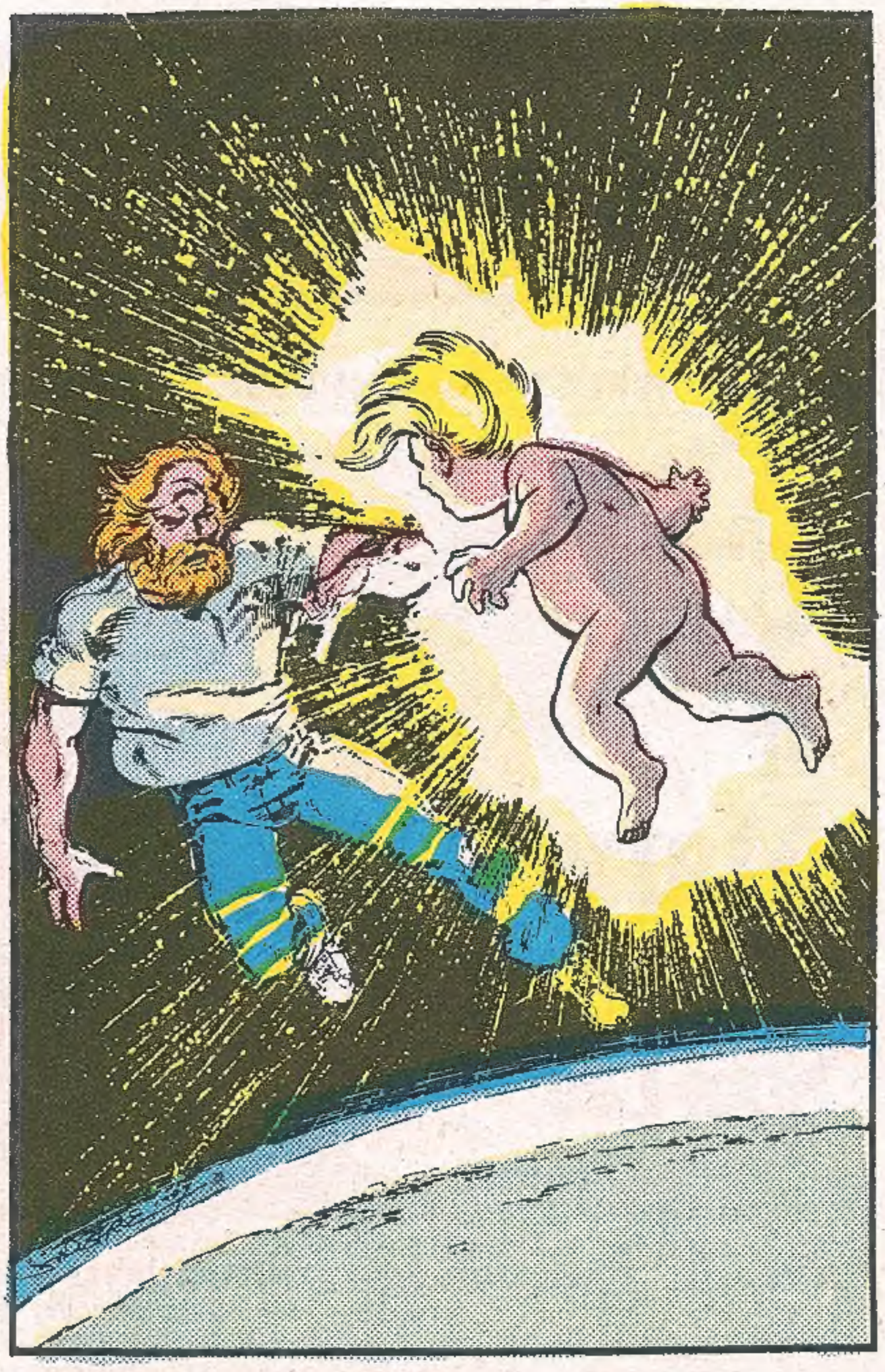
☐ **THOR** #393 — **Hogun the Grim** dies. And his killer is **Daredevil**! Where's **Thor**? In a fight for his life against **Quicksand**! "In the Blaze of Battle" is written by **Tom DeFalco**, penciled by **Ron Frenz**, and inked by **Brett Breeding**. 75¢.

☐ **FRAGGLE ROCK** #4 — When **Cotterpin Doozer** decides to become a **Fraggle**, the result is a touching and hilarious FRAGGLE ROCK classic that shows all of us why we are what we are. "The Doozer who Wanted to Be a Fraggle" is written by **Stan Kay** and illustrated by **Marie Severin**. A Star Comic. $1.00.

☐ **TRANSFORMERS** #42 — At long last! **The Transformers'** leader, **Optimus Prime**, is back! And the **Powermasters** are born (or is it "manufactured"?)! "People Power" is written by **Bob Budiansky**, penciled by **Jose Delbo**, and inked by **Dave Hunt**. $1.00.

☐ **TRANSFORMERS COMICS MAGAZINE** #10 — **Omega Supreme** defends the **Transformers'** Ark against the **Decepticons**, and **Megatron** ambushes **Skids** in the Old West in the classic adventures from THE TRANSFORMERS #s 19 and 20, "Command Performances!" and "Showdown" written by **Bob Budiansky** and illustrated by **Don Perlin** and **Herb Trimpe**. 64 pages. A Marvel Digest. $1.50.

☐ **CONAN SAGA** #14 — Re-presenting from SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #7 one of **Conan's** eeriest adventures. **Conan** confronts the wizard **Shamash-Shum-Ukin** who claims to be a master of time. But his sorcerous experiments threaten to unleash the horrors of the past and the future on the Hyborian nations. "Citadel at the Center of Time" is written by **Roy Thomas**, penciled by **John Buscema** and inked by **Alfredo Alcala**. A Marvel Magazine. $2.00.



Titles Shipping March 29
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☐ **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN** #140 — When the **Kingpin's** new assassin, **Tombstone**, broke **Robbie Robertson's** back, **Spider-Man** swore revenge! But someone else is also hunting **Tombstone** . . . intending to kill him! Written by **Gerry Conway** and illustrated by **Sal Buscema**. $1.00.

☐ **X-FACTOR** #30 — **Infectia** makes her next move — and her target is **Iceman**! Will he survive her deadly infatuation? Plus more on the mystery of **Candy Southern**! Written by **Louise Simonson**, penciled by **Walt Simonson**, and inked by **Bob Wiacek**. $1.00.

☐ **THE 'NAM** #20 — If you think you know all about Vietnam, you're in for a surprise. In this issue, we gain a different perspective on the war, through the eyes of the Royal Thai Army! "The Queen's Cobras" is scripted by **Doug Murray**, penciled by **Wayne Vansant**, and inked by **Geof Isherwood**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **WILLOW** Graphic Novel — Wizards and witches, brownies and trolls fill this fantasy epic adapted from the blockbuster movie of the same name from the creators of STAR WARS. Awesome forces of good and evil struggle to control a magical world — whose ultimate fate hinges on the life of a new-born baby! Written by **Jo Duffy**, penciled by **Bob Hall**, and inked by **Romeo Tanghal**. 64 pages. $6.95.

new universe™

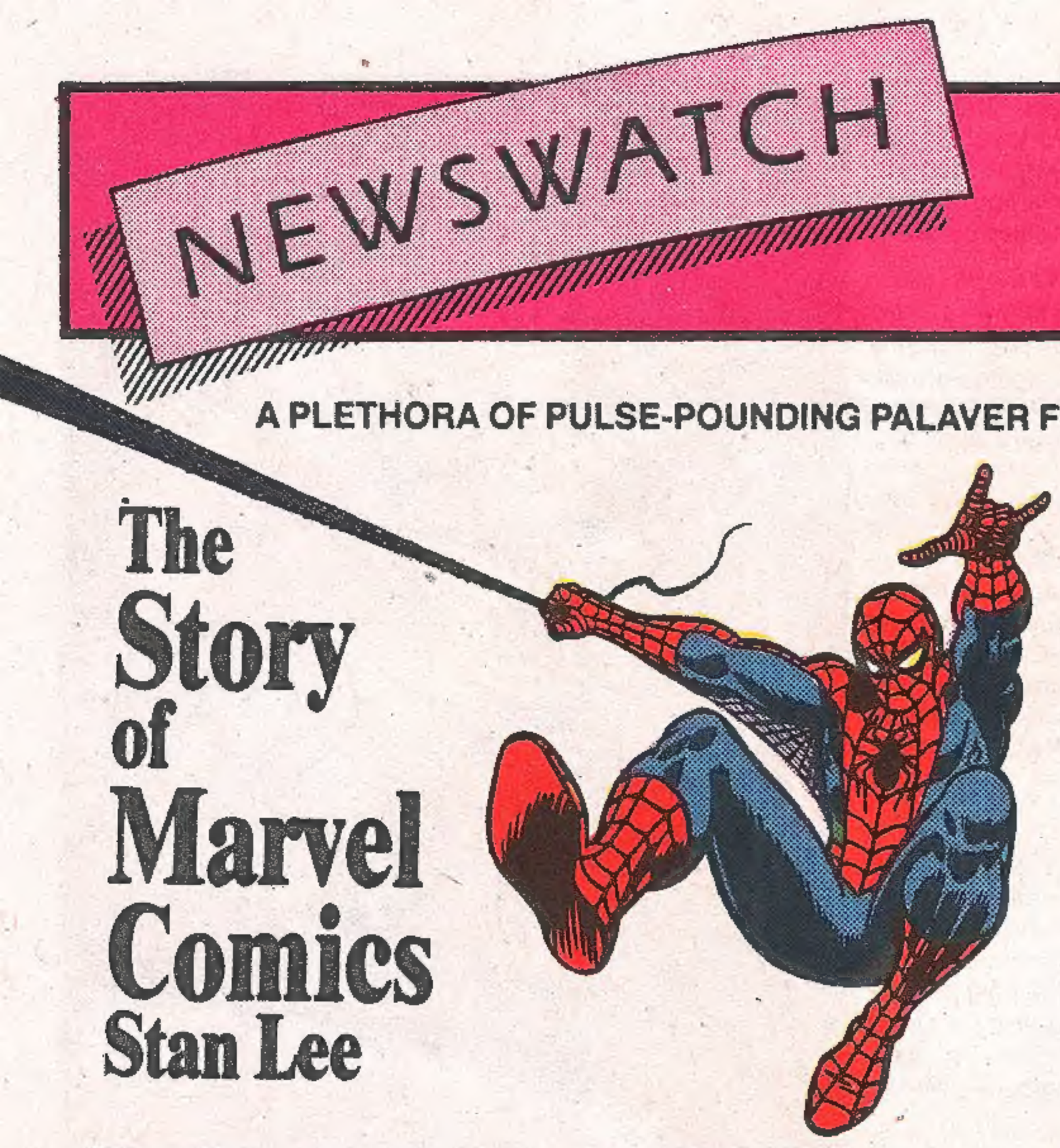
☐ **THE STAR BRAND** #14 — In the wake of the Pitt disaster, **Ken Connell's** son has been born. But how will he be affected by the power of the Star Brand? Written and penciled by **John Byrne** and inked by **Tom Palmer**. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS INDEX TO THE X-MEN** #7 — Continuing our issue-by-issue survey of the lives and careers of the uncanny **X-Men**, complete with full-color reproductions of every cover! In this issue: THE UNCANNY X-MEN #s 125–148, featuring the dramatic death of **Phoenix**! Compiled by **George Olshevsky** with a cover by **John Romita Jr.** Direct sales only. 48 pages. Bookshelf format. $2.95.

☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE** Trade Paperback #10 — The last volume in our high-quality paperback reprint of the Limited Series wraps up the Book of the Dead with more of your favorite dead characters, including **Warlock**, **Thunderbird**, and the **Swordsman**! Written by **Peter Sanderson** with art by **Kevin Nowlan**, **Mike Zeck**, **John Byrne**, **Bill Sienkiewicz**, **Jim Starlin**, and more Bullpenners than you can shake a Cosmic Cube at! 128 pages. $6.95.

NEWSWATCH

A PLETHORA OF PULSE-POUNDING PALAVER FOR PUNDITS AND THEIR PALS



The Story of Marvel Comics

Stan Lee

ITEM: Want to play a major role in Marvel Comics history? How about in *compiling* Marvel Comics history? We need your help for a very special project we're planning for Christmas. It's called THE STORY OF MARVEL COMICS: AN ILLUSTRATED CHRONICLE, and it'll be a 400-page, hardcover history of the first fifty years of Marvel Comics, researched by **Brad Elliot** and written by none other than **Stan (the Man) Lee**!

Now, listen carefully, because here's where you come in: As you may have guessed from the title, more than half of the book will be made up of illustrations — photos, sketches, and original art from the past fifty years. But you know us — we're lucky if we can find our socks! So, we're turning to you. If you've got any old photos of folks who've worked for Marvel or the offices Marvel's occupied over the years, or character sketches drawn by Marvel artists before 1975, or original comic book artwork (especially pages that were changed before being printed in one of our comics), write to Executive Editor **Mark Gruenwald** here at Marvel Comics. If we wind up using your material, we'll even list you as a source in the book! Can you think of a better way to show your Mom that she was right to let you keep your comics all those years?

ITEM: You'd think hard-working **Howard Mackie** would be busy enough just trying to edit all of Marvel's New Universe titles, wouldn't you? Don't you believe it! Howard's not only adding IRON MAN to his editorial schedule, but he's also going to be editing the upcoming OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE UPDATE. And given the number of changes that have swept through the Marvel Universe since the last edition of the HANDBOOK was compiled, that sounds like a job that would keep even **Doctor Octopus's** hands full! Howard's going to need some top-notch help in a hurry, especially since . . .

ITEM: Alas, the time has come for us to bid a tearful farewell to Howard's assistant editor and all-around good gal, **Joanne Spaldo**. Joanne's departure for the hallowed halls of academe sent the harried Howard in search of a replacement capable enough to fill Joanne's shoes. Fortunately, the search had to go no farther than our old buddy, Submissions Editor **David Wohl**!

But if David is Howard's new assistant editor, you ask, who's taking over David's old job? Step up and say "howdy" to brand new Submissions Editor A.A. Perry! A graduate of Ohio's Antioch College (where he majored in film and literature), A.A. is no stranger around the Bullpen. It wasn't all that long ago that he was an intern working with Special Projects Editor **Bob Budiansky**. And now, a little older and wiser, A.A.'s glad to be back. As he says, "I'd like to say 'thank you' to Bob for hiring me *again*!"

ITEM: Just a quick reminder: Next month, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE will present an info-packed overview of all the 1988 Marvel Annuals. Besides the usual sort of monumental happenings that fill the annuals every year, we're going to be adding a couple of new twists this time around! So be sure to stay on top of it all by picking up MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #64!

Of course, if you want to get a preview of what's going to be coming up in all of our regular titles over the coming year as well, you won't want to miss this year's MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE ANNUAL either! But then, you've probably got some of your hard-earned cash set aside for the ANNUAL already, right? We thought so.

THE TOP TEN

Since we know you're just as anxious as we are to see which titles came out on top in our Fall of the Mutants storyline, we'll keep it short and sweet. This month's list of the top ten best selling titles in the Direct Sales market is for the month of November and is compiled by our Vice President/Direct Sales, **Carol Kalish**. Now, on to the Top Ten:

1 — **X-MEN** #227 (Fall of the Mutants)
2 — **X-FACTOR** #26 (Fall of the Mutants)
3 — **THE NEW MUTANTS** #61 (Fall of the Mutants)
4 — **DAREDEVIL** #252 (Fall of the Mutants tie-in)
5 — **CAPTAIN AMERICA** #339 (Fall of the Mutants tie-in)
6 — **THE PUNISHER** #7
7 — **SILVER SURFER** #9
8 — **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN** #298
9 — **FANTASTIC FOUR** #312 (Fall of the Mutants tie-in)
10 — **THE 'NAM** #16

MARVEL® TRIVIA QUIZ

Imagine you're **Cyclops**, and you're forced to control your vision every moment of the waking day. If your eyes are ever open and you're not wearing your ruby quartz visor, beams of uncontrollable force explode from your peepers. So what do you do when you're asleep? Oh, sure, you probably have a cute little ruby quartz blindfold to strap on while you're sleeping — but there have been times when you must have been sleepy and there was no ruby quartz in sight! What happened, those nights when you tossed and turned — you must have opened your eyes occasionally, right? No wonder you have marital problems!

This is why they put me in charge of the Marvel Trivia Quiz: I wonder about problems like this! While I ponder this and other conundrums, test yourself against this list of twenty questions, cunningly culled from the history of the X-Men. And if you're losing sleep over the answers, never fear — just check page 32!

—Brian Nelson

1. "These troops want me bad! I wish I knew why! Holy terror . . . why me?" These were the first published words of what X-Man?
   A) **Rogue**
   B) **Banshee**
   C) **Longshot**
   D) **Lockheed the Dragon**
2. **Dazzler** made her Marvel Comics debut in:
   A) DAZZLER #1
   B) AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #207
   C) X-MEN #130
   D) NIGHT NURSE #1
3. Which X-Man would you consult for a quick seminar in archaeology?
   A) **Storm** C) **Havok**
   B) **Psylocke** D) **Iceman**
4. **Wolverine** and **Mariko** took a young Japanese orphan under their care, to be Mariko's ward, and like unto Logan's adoptive daughter; what was her name?
   A) **Leiko** C) **Akiko**
   B) **Michiko** D) **Seiko**
5. Who fired the neutralizer weapon that robbed Storm of her powers?
   A) **Forge**
   B) **Henry Peter Gyrich**
   C) **Valerie Cooper**
   D) **Professor Plum**, in the Library
6. Both **Cyclops** and **Magneto** have been romantically paired with what Marvel supporting character?
   A) **Colleen Wing**
   B) **Lee Forrester**
   C) **Madeleine Pryor**
   D) **Ann Nocenti**
7. **Moira MacTaggert** and **Sikorsky**, medic to the **Starjammers**, worked together to:
   A) save **Ororo** from the possession of her body by a **Brood** queen.
   B) restore **Kitty's** body, fading to nonexistence after the assault of the **Marauders**
   C) clone a new, uncrippled, body for **Charles Xavier**
   D) create the best "Stupid Pet Trick" ever seen on *Late Night with David Letterman*.
8. With what words did **Kate Pryde** cue **Rachel Summers** to send herself back through time, via post-hypnotic command?
   A) "**Shadowcat**" C) "**Dark Phoenix**"
   B) "**Scott** and **Jean**" D) " 'Nuff said!"
9. Outside of their own book, the X-MEN have frequently had adventures published which teamed them up in a one-shot or mini-series with other super-teams. Which team did NOT share a book with the X-Men?
   A) **Micronauts** C) **New Teen Titans**
   B) **Alpha Flight** D) **Defenders**
10. What X-Man's parents were named **Neal** and **Maria**?
   A) **Professor X** C) **Thunderbird**
   B) Iceman D) Rogue
11. Where did Phoenix die?
   A) The Blue Area of the Moon
   B) The Hellfire Club
   C) in the neutron galaxy enclosed by the M'Krann Crystal
   D) in the explosion of the planet Krypton
12. Where was **Banshee** when he was recruited for the new X-Men?
   A) in his ancestral castle in Ireland
   B) on an undercover mission for S.H.I.E.L.D.
   C) in the audience of the Grand Ol' Opry in Nashville
   D) in plastic surgery, so his face would look normal for a change
13. What character was in suspended animation for a time at Xavier's school, released when he received his own series?
   A) **the Werewolf** C) **Morbius**
   B) **the Beast** D) **Groo the Wanderer**
14. The FBI agent who was liaison to the X-Men and Charles Xavier was named:
   A) **Amos "Fred" Duncan**
   B) **Fred "Amos" Duncan**
   C) **Duncan "Fred" Amos**
   D) **Famous Amos**
15. **Sauron**, the mutants' pterodactyl-like foe, was in real life:
   A) **Karl Lykos** C) **Peter Corbeau**
   B) **Cal Rankin** D) **J.R.R. Tolkien**
16. What lost Golden Age character was rediscovered by the **Angel**?
   A) **The Whizzer**
   B) **The Blazing Skull**
   C) **The Red Raven**
   D) **Namora**
17. Which character made his first-ever appearance in the Marvel Universe in the pages of X-Men?
   A) **Sherlock Holmes**
   B) **The Frankenstein Monster**
   C) **Robin Hood**
   D) **David Copperfield**
18. Who was the first X-Man to die in battle?
   A) **The Mimic** C) **Changeling**
   B) **Thunderbird** D) **Bucky**
19. **Count Nefaria** once led a team of "yesteryear's super-vilains" (that's what they were called in 1966!) against the X-Men; this team did NOT include:
   A) **the Eel** C) **Plant-Man**
   B) **the Unicorn** D) **Paste-Pot Pete**
20. According to its price as listed in the OVERSTREET PRICE GUIDE #17, how many copies of X-MEN #1 would you have to trade for a new Chevrolet Beretta GT?
   A) 10 C) 32
   B) 25 D) 127

X-TRA THE MUTANT REPORT X-TRA

VOLUME 3 "THE NEXT STEP IN NEWS EVOLUTION" NUMBER 4

BEHIND-THE-SCENES X-CLUSIVE REPORT ON THE MAKING OF THE ANIMATED X-MEN®

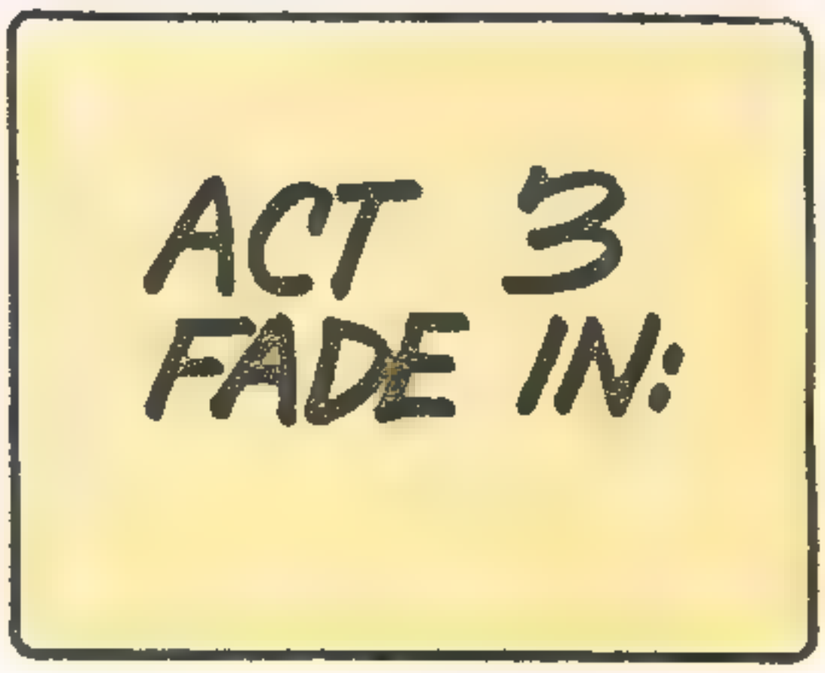
"Veni, video, vici" — this is an old Latin motto meaning, "I came, I appeared on TV, I conquered!" And very soon, this motto may be claimed by the uncanny X-Men, when they appear in their own animated television series!

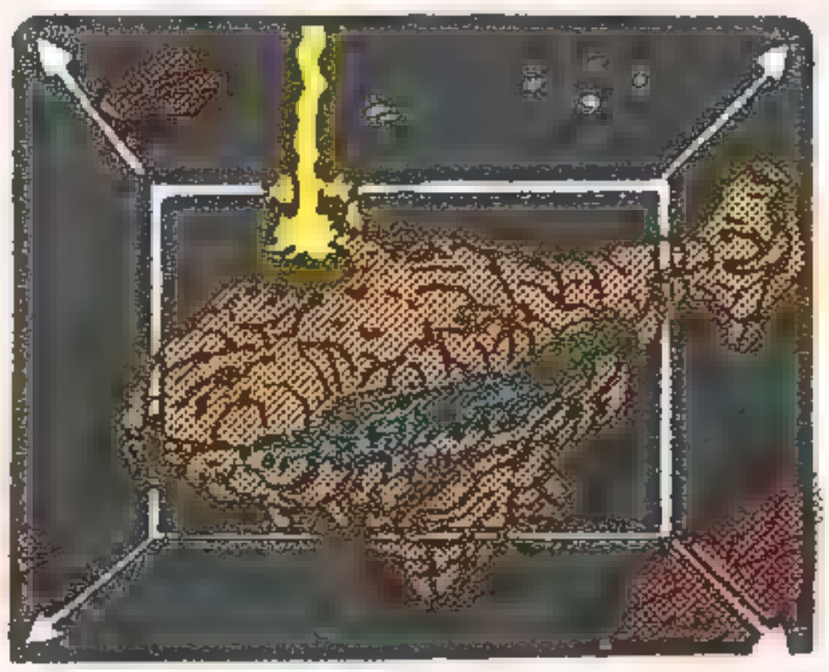
When will this be? Time and fate will decide; so far only the pilot has been completed, and the good folk at Marvel Productions in Los Angeles are hard at work developing it into a full-fledged series. Perhaps we'll see THE X-MEN as a Saturday morning attraction, or perhaps as a syndicated daily show. But one thing's for sure, seeing such popular characters as Professor X, Cyclops, Storm, Wolverine, Colossus, Nightcrawler, Dazzler, Kitty Pryde, and Lockheed on television is a spectacle of — dare we say — *uncanny* fascination!

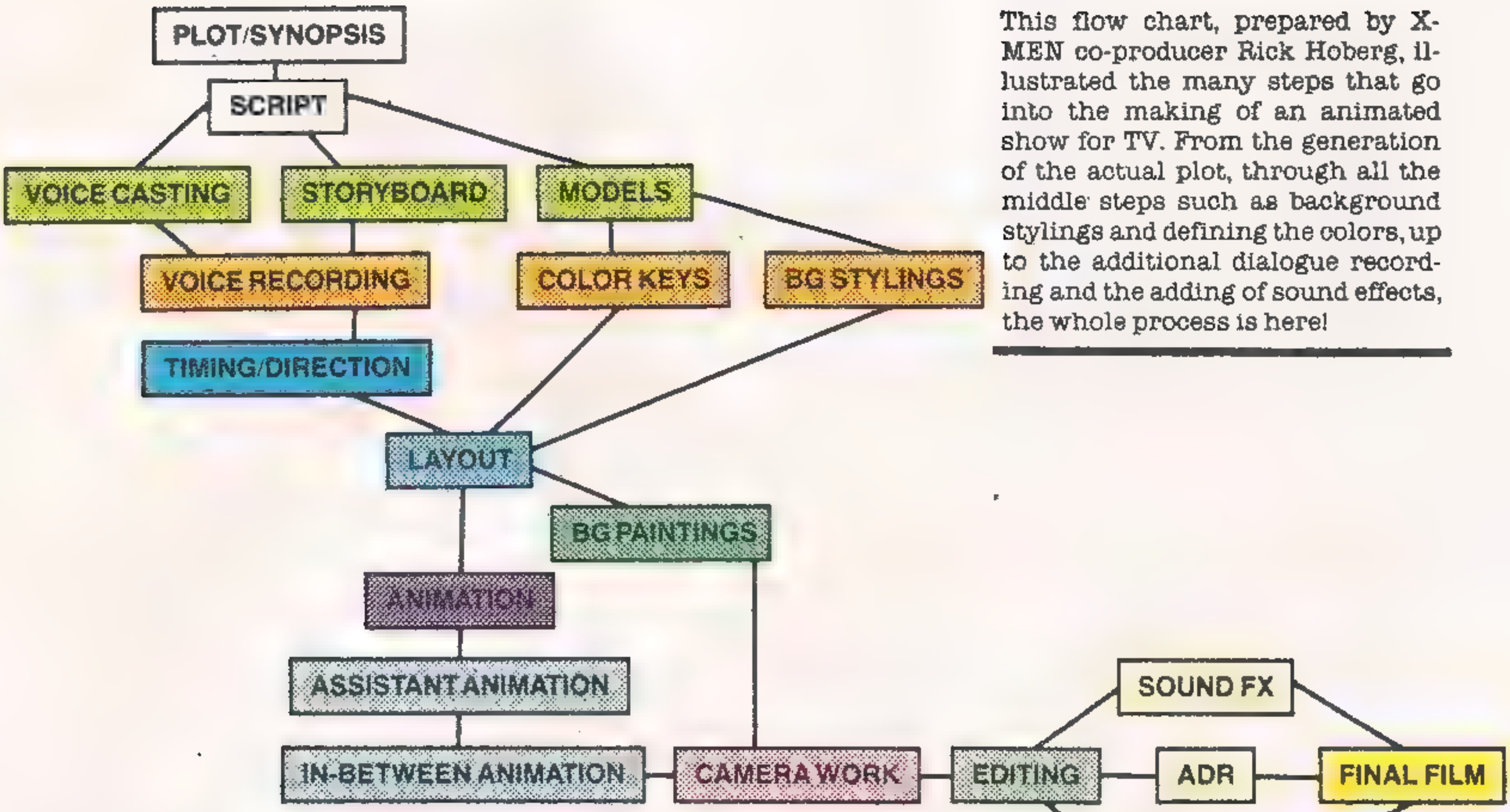
Visiting the Marvel Productions offices the week before Christmas, I screened the pilot through the generosity of co-producers Rick Hoberg and Larry Houston (and special thanks as well to Stan the Man and his terrific assistant, Lonna Poland). The creative team on the show is comprised of Rick and Larry, their third co-producer Will Meugniot, veteran scripter Larry Parr, and production designer Russ Heath, as well as Stan himself. While watching the show was as nice a Christmas present as I could have asked for, nonetheless I scrutinized the characters carefully to see how faithfully they were transposed to the screen — remembering how, when I was a kid, minor inconsistencies in the 1968 Spider-Man cartoon show used to drive me crazy!

Fortunately for my sanity, the producers of X-MEN have devoted extra care to bringing our favorite mutants to the screen intact — making only those changes that they deemed absolutely necessary for the animation medium. For continuity buffs, the show can be set roughly during the peak of the Chris Claremont, John Byrne, and

These storyboards were also helpfully supplied by Rick — (with thanks to Margaret Loésch's office for permission!) — they show how the creators of the show plan shots and sequences to accompany the script dialogue, broken up into pieces beneath the pictures. Thanks, Rick!







This flow chart, prepared by X-MEN co-producer Rick Hoberg, illustrated the many steps that go into the making of an animated show for TV. From the generation of the actual plot, through all the middle steps such as background stylings and defining the colors, up to the additional dialogue recording and the adding of sound effects, the whole process is here!

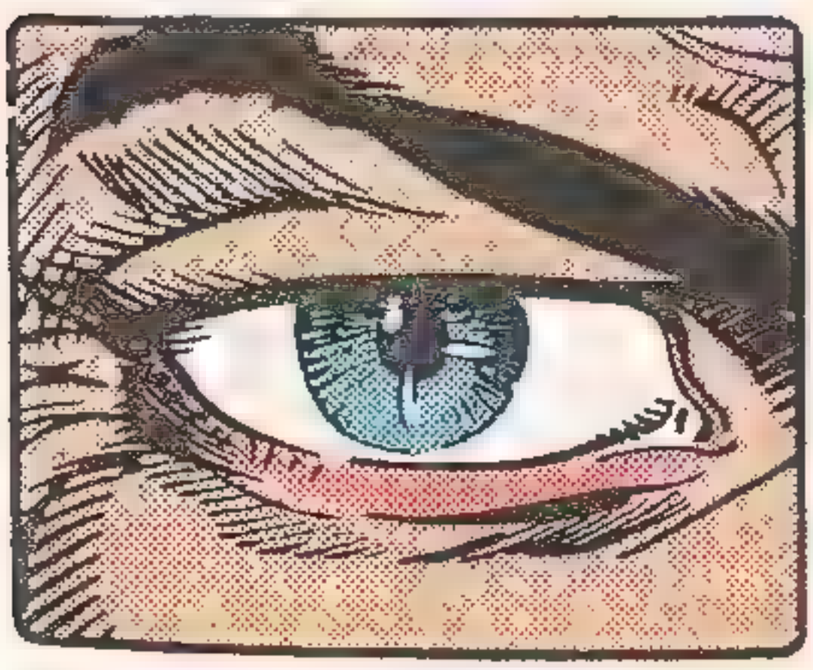
Terry Austin period. The composition of the team is that of approximately issue #138, when Kitty Pryde was recruited for the team. Dazzler had been introduced along with Kitty some eight issues before, so her presence on the team in the cartoon doesn't violate the established legend.

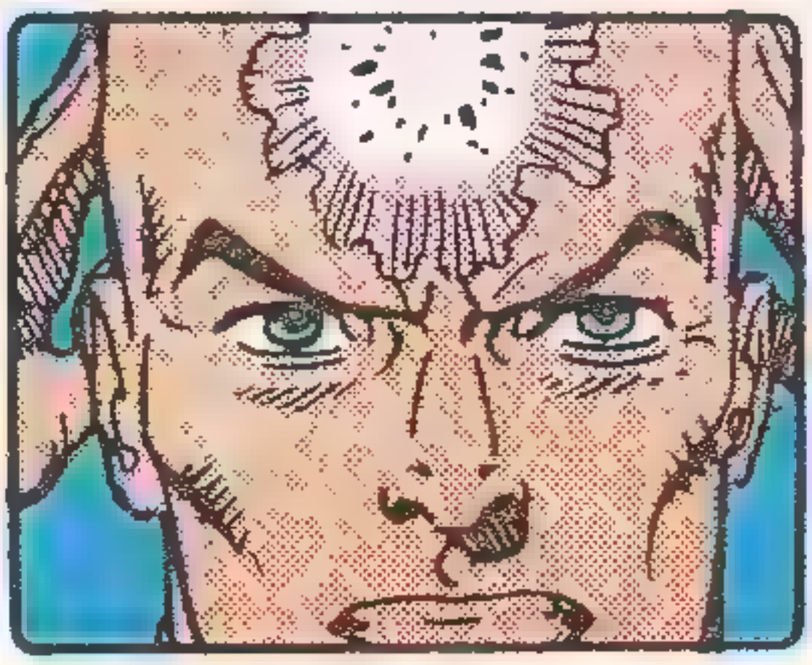
The hard work and care of all involved has paid off handsomely, creating a pilot with twenty-two minutes (that's minus commercial time) of non-stop action and excitement. But it's only logical: Will, Larry, Rick and Russ are old hands in comics, well-known to comic book art followers, and all of them with successful and substantive careers at Marvel Comics and elsewhere. While many animated versions of Marvel's characters have been brought to the screen by folks who wouldn't know a super hero comic book from an issue of MILLIE THE MODEL, this time it's been done by creators who know and care for the characters and their magnificent Marvel history. Russ Heath's work may be the most immediately familiar; editors jump for his commanding cover illustrations whenever he's available (as Jim Salicrup did to get the cover of the very issue you're reading right now, as well as his great G.I. JOE cover for MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #56)! Some of the illustrations that accompany this article are model sheets done by Russ Heath, prepared so that the animators of the new show will keep the look of the characters consistently excellent.

Model sheets, plotlines, and storyboards are worked out at Marvel Productions in Los Angeles. The actual cel work — the painstaking reproduction of drawing after drawing, with only minute changes to create the illusion of movement, and its final result on film — is done by Mr. Akehi and his wizards at Toei Animation in Japan. (And when you reflect on the many ties the X-Men have had to Japan, somehow it only seems appropriate!) Then the vocal talent is cast and recorded back in Los Angeles; for a complete picture of the process, see the chart accompanying this article. It's an intricate and complicated procedure, but one most modern cartoon shows go through before they appear on the tube!

Incidentally, it's worth mentioning that the animators at Toei described the X-MEN as the best animation product they'd ever seen from America — so much so that they did 65 retakes out of their own pocket just to pull off some of the trickier shots! One example is a dynamic shot which picks up the X-Men's Blackbird aircraft and spins about it in vertiginous speed and detail, so much so that the susceptible viewer may reach for the Dramamine! So popular have the mutants become, Toei's head animators have reportedly started collecting all the X-MEN material they can find!

For those skeptics among you (yes, I can see you shaking your head there in the back row), the thought of such well-loved characters as the X-MEN being translated into other media probably has you on your guard. And considering the state in which some other heroes have made it to the tube, who can





blame you? So as to assuage those fears, why don't we go through the characters one by one, and look at how they've made the TV transition? Let's start with the heroes:

PROFESSOR X: The leader of the mutant marvels is everything you'd expect, from his first appearance as an astral image welcoming Kitty Pryde to the X-Mansion (shorthand for Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters): He controls Cerebro, he manipulates the Danger Room, he's even overwhelmed by psionic backlash (as Charlie tends to be on a regular basis, when you think about it). Naturally, he's in a wheelchair; this is before a new body was cloned for him, curing his crippled legs. Stan Lee describes Xavier as a character he particularly identifies with, stoically holding the team together (you may not have ever thought of Stan as stoic, but you argue it with him), and here he is, in all his professorial grandeur. The single fact, more than any other, that should convey the strength and authority of the animated Professor X is that his voice is supplied by actor John Stevenson — whom trivia buffs may recognize as the voice of Johnny Quest's father, the sage scientist extraordinaire, Dr. Benton Quest!

CYCLOPS: The mutant mainstay, Scott Summers, is instantly recognizable, haunted as ever by the force beams constantly emitted from his eyes. His costume has been adjusted just slightly for better animation; rather than his eyebeam being activated by pressing a palm control, which doesn't read too effectively on screen, Scott touches the sides of his visor to trigger the beam.

STORM: For nostalgic types, the X-Men's other perennial leader is outfitted in her original long tresses and flowing cape. There have been model sheets done with her punk look, which producer Rick Hoberg says is equally popular, and perhaps she may adopt the look in future episodes — or even switch back and forth. But all that is for the future; in the present episode we first see her on a mountaintop created in the Danger Room, surrounded by lightning bolts — the quintessential Storm!

WOLVERINE: Now maybe you've been thinking, nah, there's no way *Logan* can be as savage and ferocious on screen as he is in the comics. But his animated incarnation is out to prove you wrong: he uses his trademarked adamantium claws to slice up anything that needs slicing, starting with a huge Danger Room robot, and ending with the walls, doors, and defense systems in Asteroid M. (And if that doesn't give you a clue who the major villain in the show is, you'd best stay up all night with the X-MEN INDEX!) Logan's costume, claws, height (or lack thereof), and personality are all directly identical to his comics appearance — down to the hair on his arms, down to his warning that Kitty may not be tough enough to survive, down to his very real enjoyment in using those claws. There's no doubt at all he's the most lethal of the team.

NIGHTCRAWLER: Okay, okay, you can't smell the stench of brimstone, but otherwise, he's the original fuzzy elf, romantic Austrian accent and all! He bamfs about with abandon, he spins and cavorts with acrobatic glee — and he saves the day! Wait a few seconds for the story synopsis while we cover the rest of the characters, okay?

COLOSSUS: It's a delight to watch Peter transform from his normal frame to an armored, silver powerhouse; and as Stan Lee notes, his Russian accent is a particular pleasure. Colossus rips through steel walls, looks around at the havoc he has caused in the villains' stronghold, and says, "Iss *good!*"

KITTY PRYDE: The X-MEN pilot is loosely based on Kitty Pryde's joining the team, although the menace that gives her a baptism of fire has been changed to Magneto and the Brotherood of Evil Mutants. New readers may not remember that there was a time when Kitty, now toughened by her experiences with Wolverine in Japan, was insecure and frightened by her new powers; but it's been recreated here, including her initial repulsion of Nightcrawler, and her subsequent admiration and affection for him. While her TV personality goes back to the beginning, though, her TV costume is completely up-to-date: it's the blue blouse-leotard-and-tights outfit she currently wears.

DAZZLER: Though not a member of the team when Kitty joined, Dazzler was around back then, and her presence gives the team a better male/female balance. (Jean Grey/Phoenix may appear in the future, but her story alone would take up the episode's full 22 minutes to explain — at least!) Alison Blaire's light powers are also especially effective in animation; in a way, after all, any cartoon is ultimately just a series of images in light! Dazzler's outfitted in the blue jumpsuit she currently wears (sorry, roller skate fans), accompanied by a brick-colored jacket, and looks, in-

deed, dazzling!

LOCKHEED: Let's face it, it's a given of the world of animation that any team cartoon show features a cute animal — and so who better to fill the bill than Lockheed the Dragon? He's a dead ringer for his comics incarnation, as he's discovered on Magneto's Asteroid M (apparently just an extraterrestrial a very long phone call from home), who decides to "adopt" Kitty. In a funny throwaway bit, the Toad is seen chasing Lockheed in his spare time, evoking those types who like to pull the wings off flies for fun.

That covers the good guys! Other members, such as Rogue, may be introduced in the future to join the team, when the continuity is right to bring them in. And older members such as Iceman and the Angel may also appear, as forthcoming episodes give the creative team an opportunity to detail the rich and glorious history of Xavier's legacy. Meanwhile, let's review the malcontents — the ne'er-do-wells — the bad guys!

MAGNETO: As the mention of Asteroid M should have clued you in, the Master of Magnetism is on hand in his original villainous incarnation. Perhaps in episodes far in the future, he'll evolve to his present benevolent persona, but that too is for the future. For now, you couldn't ask for a more sinister villain: using devices on board Asteroid M, Magneto plans to collide the Scorpio Comet into Earth, thus wiping out much of humanity, and leaving mutants to rule over the survivors! Towering over any other character in the show, with a voice that could shake mountains and eyes that glare powerfully from the shadows of his helmet, he's obviously one of the premiere Marvel villains. As he has often done, Magneto is leading the Brotherhood of Evil Mutants, employing their terrorist tactics toward the goal of world domination over helpless homo sapiens. The Brotherhood, as assembled for the show, contains members of both the old and new Brotherhoods: its members are the Blob, the Toad, Pyro, Juggernaut, and in a surprise move, the White Queen!

THE WHITE QUEEN: Now admittedly, the White Queen isn't a member of either Brotherhood, old or new. But the team needed a woman member who was completely, undeniably villainous, so characters like the Scarlet Witch or Rogue wouldn't do. But hey, you're going to complain about a character who looks as great as Emma Frost? Even with her ensemble tailored ever so slightly to conform to children's show standards, she's still a woman anyone with a Y-chromosome would love to have threatening you with destruction! The White Queen effortlessly decimates an Army division at the opening of the X-Men pilot, an act of carnage that starts the action off at a breakneck pace.

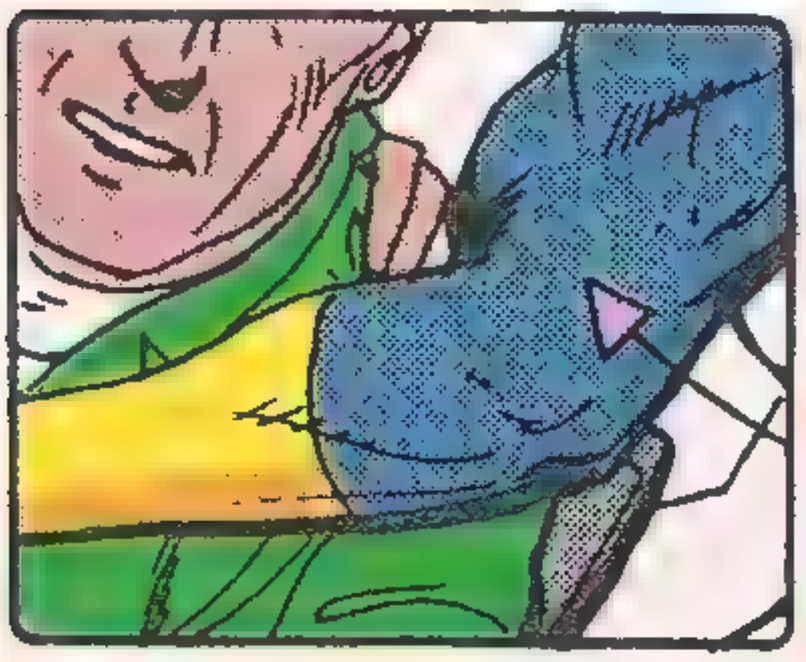
THE BLOB: This is one of my personal favorites in the show — when he boasts, in his dumb, gruff, carny worker voice, "NOTHING CAN MOVE — THE BLOB!" — I believe him. Yeah, the guy's a chunk, looking identical to his comics persona in his Freedom Force-style outfit, and he sounds like a blob, too! His presence here is only logical, when you stop to consider he's the longest-lived member of the Brotherhood, dating back from the group's first organization (check your copy of X-MEN MARVEL MASTERWORKS for the tale), all the way to its current operations for the government.

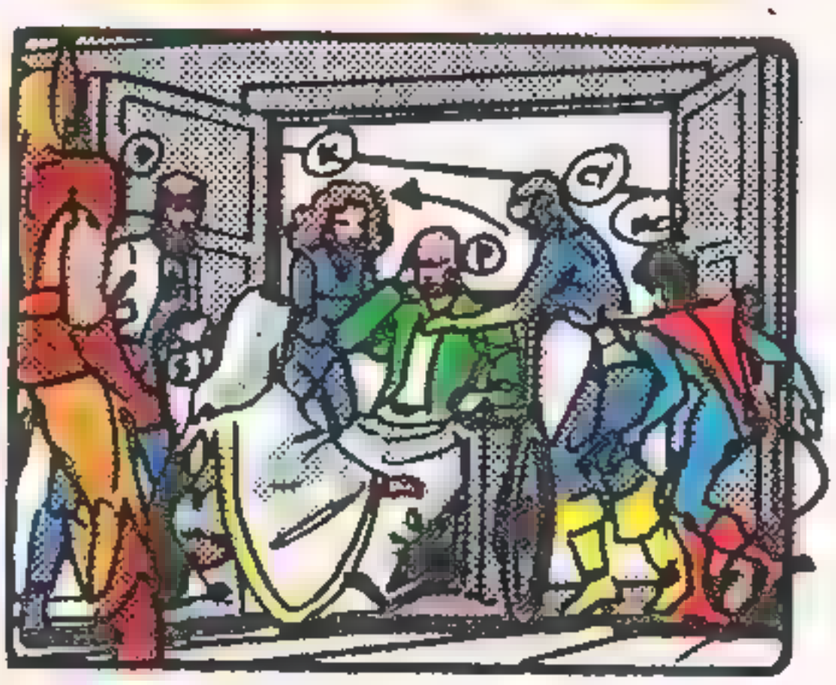
JUGGERNAUT: And if nothing can move the Blob, nothing can stop Jugs, either. His helmet has been slightly modified, with two bands to secure his helmet to the body of his costume. This wasn't done to protect the helmet (though maybe Cain Marko should consider the idea), but rather to help the character animate better — the bands allow artists to suggest his head turning, where the normal pot-like helmet would not allow that kind of flexibility. Though not normally a member of the Brotherhood, his continuity is still intact; he remains the evil step-brother of Charles Xavier, Professor X.

THE TOAD: Another premiere member of the Brotherhood, the Toad adds to the villainy on hand, answering all of television's questions about what Peter Lorre's little brother would be like, Ol' Toady cringes and cowers in fine fettle (and you know how painful that can be), looking every bit the wimpy henchman we've come to know and love.

PYRO: He's lean, he's mean, he's Australian. His fire powers make him a particularly strong choice for animation, and as with the Toad, his costume is a perfect replica of the one to be found in Marvel Comics.

There you have it: fifteen major Marvel characters, all of whom (believe it or not) are introduced and given their moment to shine in a breakneck twenty-two minutes of action! This astonishing feat was pulled off by writer Larry Parr, a true scripting pro, who





fleshed out and gave life to a basic plot by Meugniot, Hoberg, and Houston, with Stan Lee consulting. Here's the basic outline of the pilot, entitled:

"PRYDE OF THE X-MEN!": The voice of Stan Lee himself introduces the show, warning you that the age of mutants is upon us, that anyone you know, even the person sitting next to you, might be a mutant! A caravan of Army trucks drives across a desolate plain, transporting their prisoner — the malevolent Magneto, held captive by a stasis field. The guards are more than a bit freaked by their assignment; they know how dangerous evil mutants can be.

And they're about to get a second lesson, for suddenly they're under attack — by the White Queen! Using her mental powers as force bolts to scatter the guards, she frees her ally, Magneto, who flies off into the night with hero, boasting of his ultimate plan to rule homo sapiens!

In Westchester, a cab driver drops Kitty Pryde off at Xavier's mansion, and speeds away without looking back. Kitty holds a letter from Charles Xavier, offering her help with her new powers. Who is he? How does he know about her "phasing"? Entering the mansion, she is greeted by Xavier's astral image — he ushers her back to meet him in the flesh, standing at the control panel of Cerebro! The amazing computer, he explains, helps track down mutants so that he can help them adjust to their powers and assist in the battle against evil mutants. He shows her Cerebro's "mutant power circuit," (MPC) which allows a mutant to enhance his normal abilities — this is how Xavier's telepathic powers are extended through Cerebro to locate emerging mutants.

Kitty starts to break down at the news that she definitely is a mutant — a freak — but Xavier consoles her. "At one time we were all afraid," he tells her. And with that, he shows her the Danger Room, where she sees the X-Men in action for the first time: Cyclops, Storm, Colossus, Wolverine, Dazzler, and—

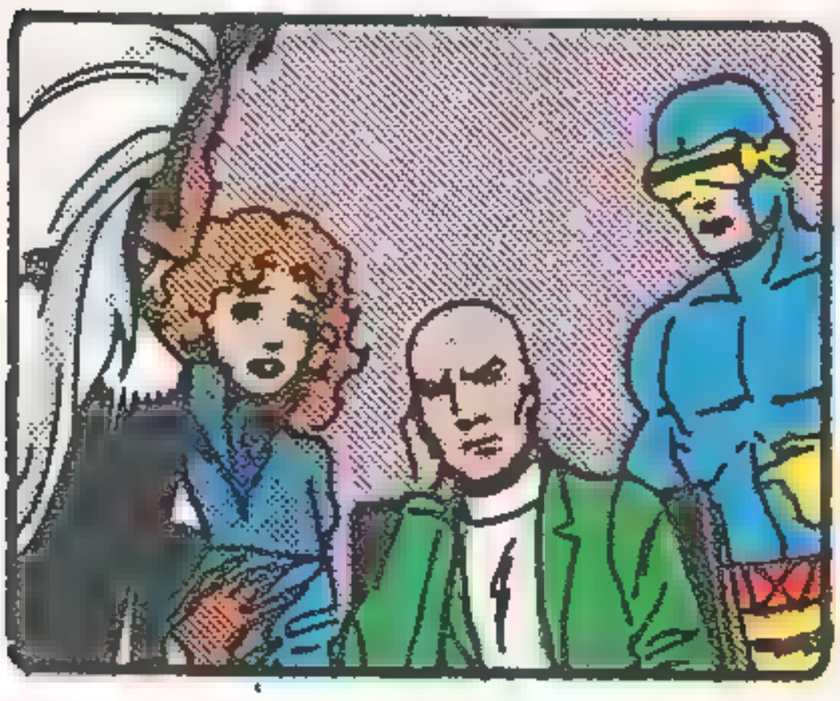
Nightcrawler, who teleports into the control room and kisses Kitty's hand gallantly. Terrified by the sight (and probably smell) of him, Kitty phases away — through the mansion's computer system, disrupting its defenses and allowing the entrace of Magneto! Together with Juggernaut, he seizes the MPC from the overwhelmed Xavier and Nightcrawler, and the terrified Kitty. Leaving, Magneto urges Kitty to join him rather than Xavier, since humans hate and fear mutants as their natural superiors; by the time the rest of the team can arrive, the two villains are gone.

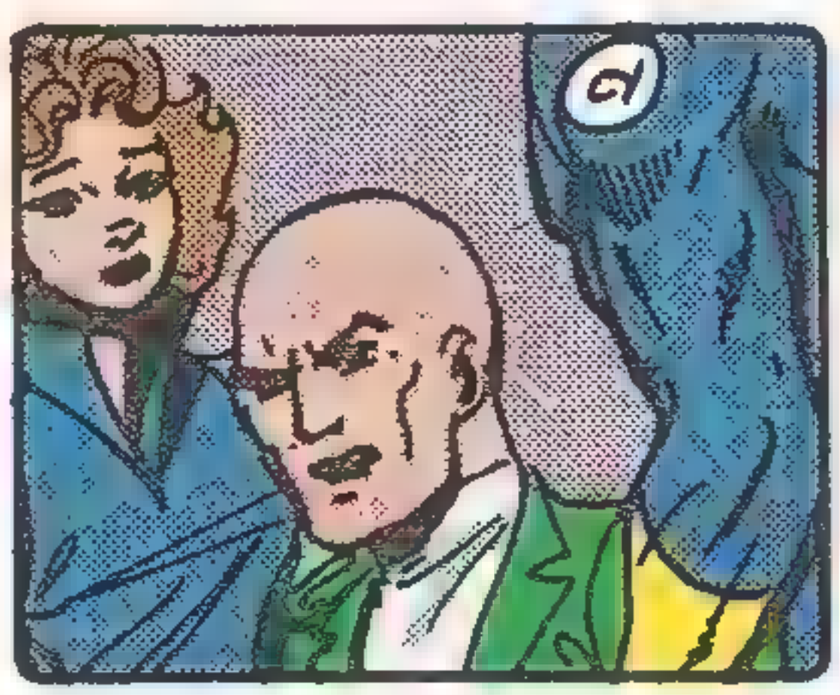
Kitty, guilty over not being able to keep the MPC safe from Magneto, is consoled by Dazzler: none of them she confides, would be able to stand alone against Magneto. News reports clue the team into more exploits of the Brotherhood: the Blob and Pyro are holding a family captive at a local observatory! Why? Their sinister purpose is a secret for now. The X-Men free the captives, but the villains escape — and the rescued family is as scared of the X-Men as they are of the Brotherhood.

Xavier, through telepathic probes, discovers Magneto's plan: through the observatory he located the Scorpio Comet, and he plans to use the MPC to tear the comet from its orbit and send it toward the Earth! The resulting cloud of dust and debris will send our planet into a new Ice Age, where most of humanity will die off, and mutants led by Magneto will emerge to rule over the survivors! The team prepares to board the Blackbird, to jet out to Asteroid M. Kitty insists on going along, but Wolverine is skeptical — she's just a kid! "I am not a kid," she declares, "I'm fourteen years old!" She vows to show them she can cut it with the best of them! Donning her own costume, she sets out to join them!

Stowing away aboard the craft through her phasing power, she is right there with the team when they don their space gear and assault Asteroid M. There they make short work of the Brotherhood: Dazzler overwhelms Pyro, Wolverine tosses the Toad aside like an old sandwich, Colossus bests Juggernaut, Nightcrawler outwits the Blob, and Cyclops blasts the White Queen. Kitty and Nightcrawler make it through to Magneto's sanctum sanctorum, but he gloats in victory — the Scorpio Comet is headed for Earth, thanks to the magnification of his powers by the MPC. But through phasing, Kitty knocks Magneto off balance so that one of his magnetic blasts damages the MPC linkup, pulling the Scorpio Comet toward Asteroid M itself! Earth will be saved—

But will Nightcrawler? He's using his own body to keep the MPC

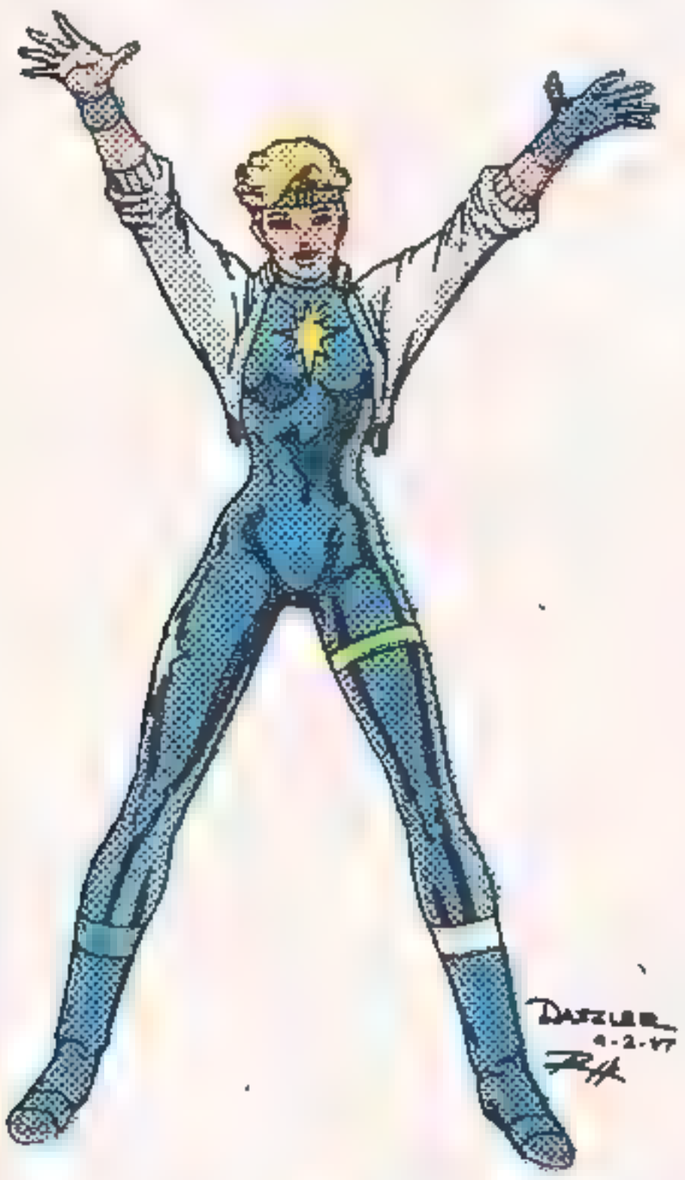




linkup intact, continuing to guide the Comet. The rest of the team evacuates, but Nightcrawler stays, sacrificing himself. How can he teleport into the Blackbird? It's too far away! Xavier tries to pilot the craft near enough for Nightcrawler to bamf aboard, but then the comet hits — the asteroid is destroyed!

Kitty regrets her fear of Nightcrawler — she's never seen anything so brave. Just then, Nightcrawler appears outside the craft — he's bamfed himself into the void of space! He cannot survive, can he? Well, of course he can — from within Kitty's locker he emerged, safe and sound, if a bit exhausted. Kitty apologizes to him, making up for her earlier feelings; she's made a true friend. And she has another friend — the little dragon Lockheed, apparently an indigenous resident of Asteroid M, "adopts" her as well. Everyone happily welcomes Kitty to the team . . . except Wolverine. So what if she survived a simple mission like this? "That don't make her an X-Man yet," he growls.

And there you have it! It's the closest thing to a Marvel Comic yet to be produced, and one of the most enjoyable things I've seen on a TV screen in a long time — totally devoid of camp and tongue-in-cheek nonsense, produced and written by people as fond of the characters as you are. We'll keep you posted here in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE with further production and airdate details as soon as we have them! In the meantime, you can start learning the words to the soon-to-be-immortal X-MEN Theme Song, as penned by the Man himself, Stan Lee:

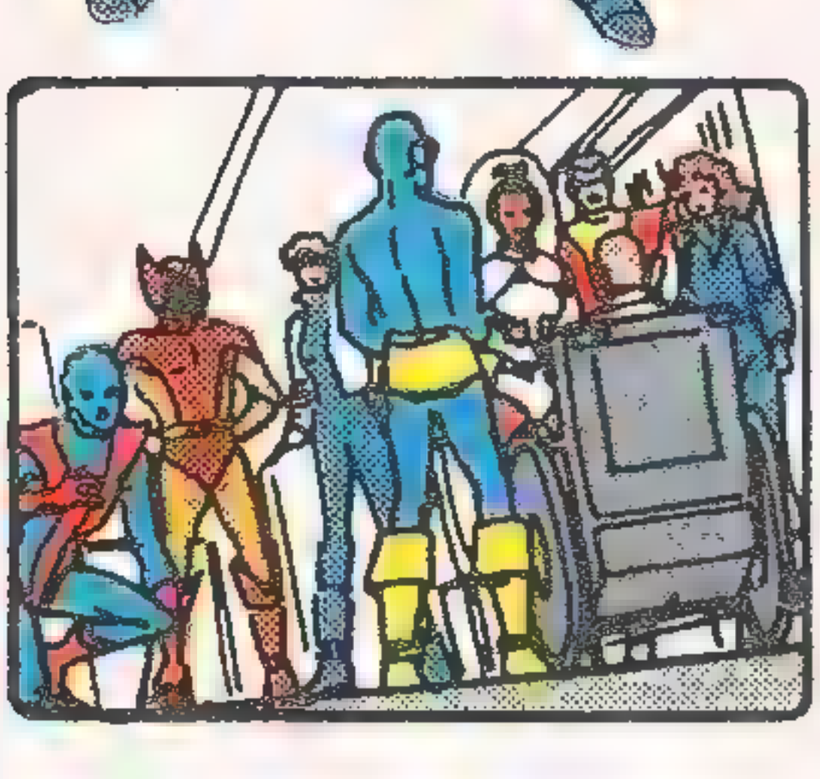


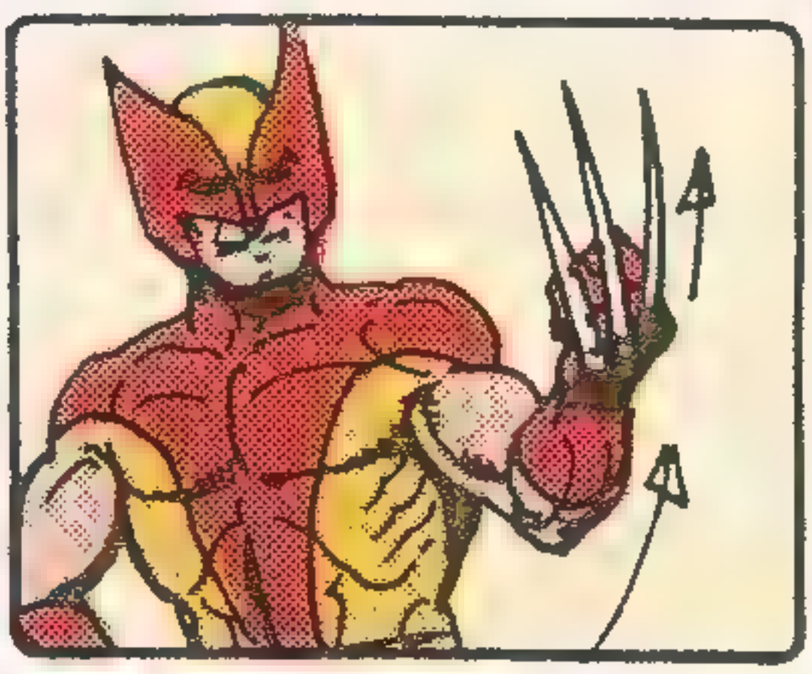
No place to hide, no place to run —

The Mutant Age has now begun—
X-Men — this is their day—
X-Men — coming your way!
Magneto's hordes are on their way—
To pillage, burn and plunder,
But there's one team that will not yield,
The team that strikes like thunder:
X-Men — this is their day!
X-Men — coming your way!

— Brian Nelson

A Storm model sheet from the X-Men animation TV show "bible."





BY NOW, YOU'VE NO DOUBT READ THE NEWS ELSEWHERE IN THIS ISSUE OF MARVEL AGE—THE **X-MEN** ARE COMING TO **TELEVISION** IN CARTOON FORM! BUT JUST **WHAT'S** GOING TO HAPPEN ONCE THE SHOW HITS THE AIR? WELL, NO ONE REALLY KNOWS FOR **SURE**, BUT HEREIN **FRED HEMBECK** OFFERS A HUMOROUS VERSION OF WHAT **MIGHT** HAPPEN (BUT PROBABLY **WON'T**) IN THIS INSTALLMENT OF

HEMBECK'S PAGE

DING DONG

FINALLY!..

TODAY'S THE DAY, eh?

NICE OF YOU TO GRACE US WITH YOUR PRESENCE..

AW, MY PARENTS'VE GOT THIS **CRAZY IDEA** ABOUT ME DOING MY **HOMEWORK** BEFORE I CAN HAVE ANY **FUN**

GEEZ...

..YOU **POOR** KID...

WHAT **IS** IT THAT'S GOT YOU BOYS SO **ENTHRALLED** ON THE TELEVISION SET, hmm?...

WE'RE WAITING FOR **THE X-MEN** TO START, MRS. STANLEY.

Oh, THAT'S **NICE**. WELL, I HAVE SOME COOKING TO DO, SO YOU YOUNGSTERS JUST ENJOY YOUR X-MEN...

huh?

THAT'S RIGHT, MRS. STANLEY. YOU SEE, THE "X" IN X-MEN STANDS FOR "**EXTRA**" AS IN **EXTRA** POWERS AND ABILITIES. THESE CHARACTERS ARE, AFTER ALL, **MUTANT SUPERHEROES.**

Yeah MOM, THE "X" **DOESN'T** STAND FOR S--

..eFlkssmpf...

Oh, DEAR ME, I'M AWFULLY SORRY, **REALLY** I AM, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW. IT'S JUST THAT I **WORRY** SO ABOUT YOUR YOUNG MINDS.

IT'S OKAY, MA'AM--THERE'S NOTHING **RISQUE** ABOUT **THIS** SHOW! IT'S JUST GOT GOOD OL' AMERICAN **VIOLENCE!**

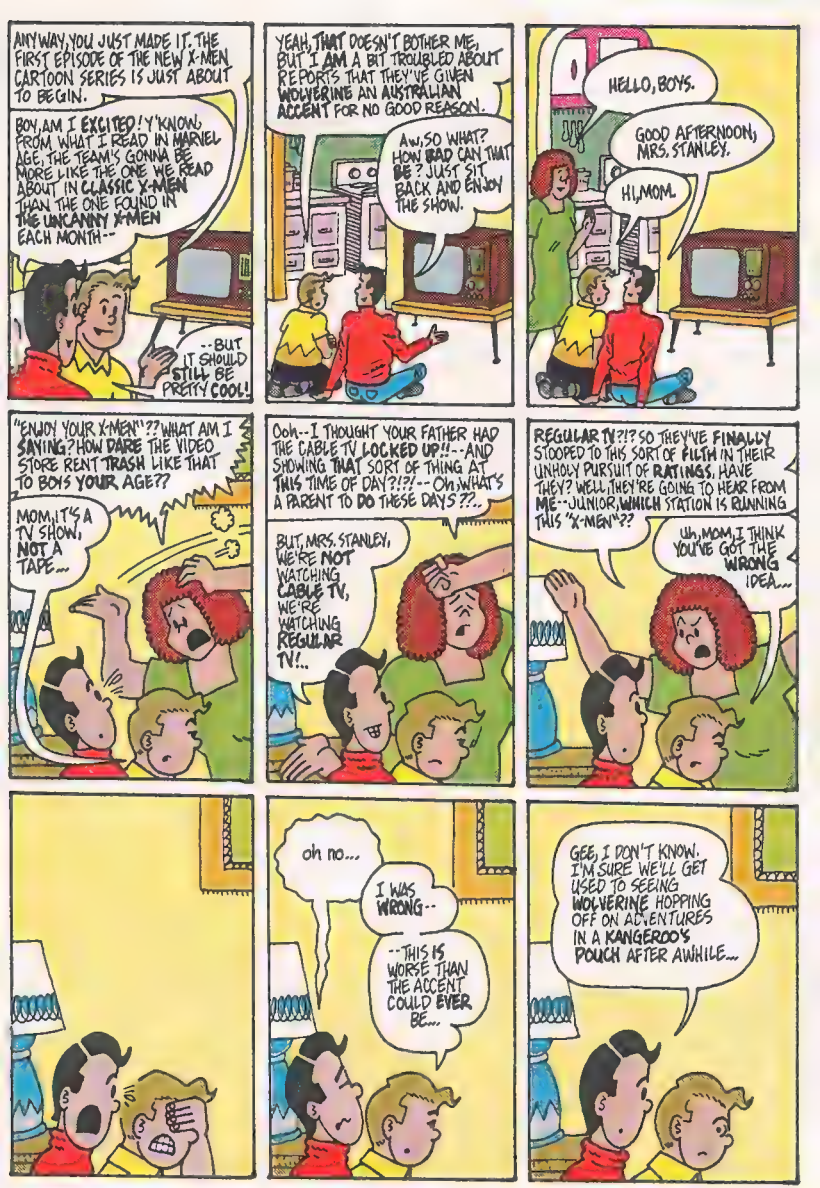
WELL, THAT MAKES ME FEEL **MUCH** BETTER--PLEASE...ah...ENJOY!..

LOOK--IT'S **STARTING!**

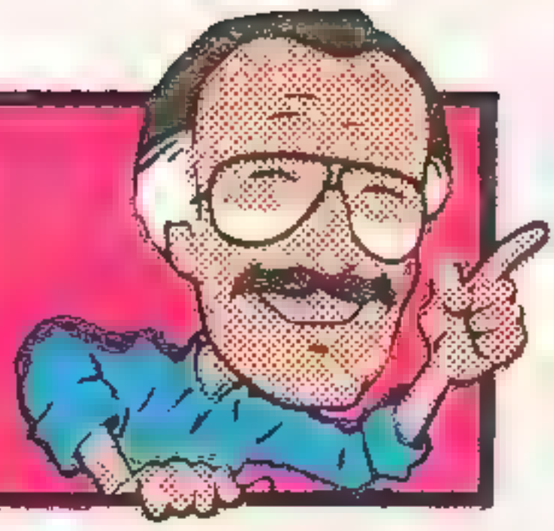
YEAH!!

HEY! THERE'S CYCLOPS, AND THERE'S STORM!

BOY, NIGHTCRAWLER SURE DOES LOOK **COOL!** GEE, I WONDER WHERE--


ANYWAY, YOU JUST MADE IT. THE FIRST EPISODE OF THE NEW X-MEN CARTOON SERIES IS JUST ABOUT TO BEGIN.
BOY, AM I EXCITED! Y'KNOW, FROM WHAT I READ IN MARVEL AGE, THE TEAM'S GONNA BE MORE LIKE THE ONE WE READ ABOUT IN CLASSIC X-MEN THAN THE ONE FOUND IN THE UNCANNY X-MEN EACH MONTH--
--BUT IT SHOULD STILL BE PRETTY COOL!
YEAH, THAT DOESN'T BOTHER ME, BUT I AM A BIT TROUBLED ABOUT REPORTS THAT THEY'VE GIVEN WOLVERINE AN AUSTRALIAN ACCENT FOR NO GOOD REASON.
AW, SO WHAT? HOW BAD CAN THAT BE? JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW.
HELLO, BOYS.
GOOD AFTERNOON, MRS. STANLEY.
HI, MOM.
"ENJOY YOUR X-MEN"?? WHAT AM I SAYING? HOW DARE THE VIDEO STORE RENT TRASH LIKE THAT TO BOYS YOUR AGE??
MOM, IT'S A TV SHOW, NOT A TAPE...
Ooh--I THOUGHT YOUR FATHER HAD THE CABLE TV LOCKED UP!!--AND SHOWING THAT SORT OF THING AT THIS TIME OF DAY?!?!-- Oh, WHAT'S A PARENT TO DO THESE DAYS ??..
BUT, MRS. STANLEY, WE'RE NOT WATCHING CABLE TV, WE'RE WATCHING REGULAR TV!..
REGULAR TV?!? SO THEY'VE FINALLY STOOPED TO THIS SORT OF FILTH IN THEIR UNHOLY PURSUIT OF RATINGS, HAVE THEY? WELL, THEY'RE GOING TO HEAR FROM ME--JUNIOR, WHICH STATION IS RUNNING THIS "X-MEN"??
Uh, MOM, I THINK YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA...
oh no...
I WAS WRONG--
--THIS IS WORSE THAN THE ACCENT COULD EVER BE...
GEE, I DON'T KNOW. I'M SURE WE'LL GET USED TO SEEING WOLVERINE HOPPING OFF ON ADVENTURES IN A KANGEROO'S POUCH AFTER AWHILE...

STAN'S SOAPBOX™



This is it, gang. This is the one you've been waiting for! This is where I answer the burning question of the day, the query on everyone's lips, the main topic of conversation from Sacramento to Siberia — yea verily, O Ye of Boundless Faith, here is where thou shalt finally learn the why and wherefore of the word "Soapbox" which doth appear at the head of this very column!

Many are the letters I have received from troubled readers, dampened parchments on which the teardrops have not yet fully dried, letters of anguish, of despair, letters pleading for an explanation, for an end to the mystery, the enigma, the conundrum which surrounds the seemingly innocent word "Soapbox."

Never one to let a plea for help go unanswered, I have finally reached my moment of decision. No longer shall the ever-swelling ranks of Marveldom Assembled be plagued by doubt and uncertainty. The time has come to clear the air, to set the record straight, bravely, unhesitatingly, without fear or favor!

As you all know or have undoubtedly guessed, a soapbox is a box containing soap! Are you with me so far? Good! At the moment, it's the box itself we are concerned with rather than the soap, so forget about the soap. Strike it from your memory. Forget that I ever mentioned it. I know this is incredibly difficult, but hang in there — I won't grade you!

Now, I want you to mentally join me in a trip to the past. Let's go back about a half-dozen decades or so. In the early days of this century, many public parks and village squares were used by politicians, reformers, labor leaders — by anybody who had a message to get across to the public. Those impassioned orators would gather a crowd around them and wax eloquent for hours at a time, cajoling, exhorting, pleading, demanding and shouting. Now here comes the important part — usually the speaker, wanting to be seen and heard above the crowd, would stand on something to make him more visible to his audience.

Are you beginning to see where this is leading? I thought so. Marvelites always catch on quicker than ordinary people!

Well, for some reason that nobody's ever really understood, those street corner orators would usually stand on a soap box. After a while, an expression came into popular usage, employed when someone was speaking fervently, trying to sell an idea to someone else. People would say, "There's old **Irving Forbush** on his soapbox again!" or some such similar remark. So, the lowly soapbox became a symbol for a vehicle used in propagating ideas.

Our older readers, of course, are well aware of all this, but it fairly warms the cockles of my heart to know I've been able to help our younger friends put their doubts and fears to rest and find piece of mind and tranquility once again! After all, what else are soapboxes for?

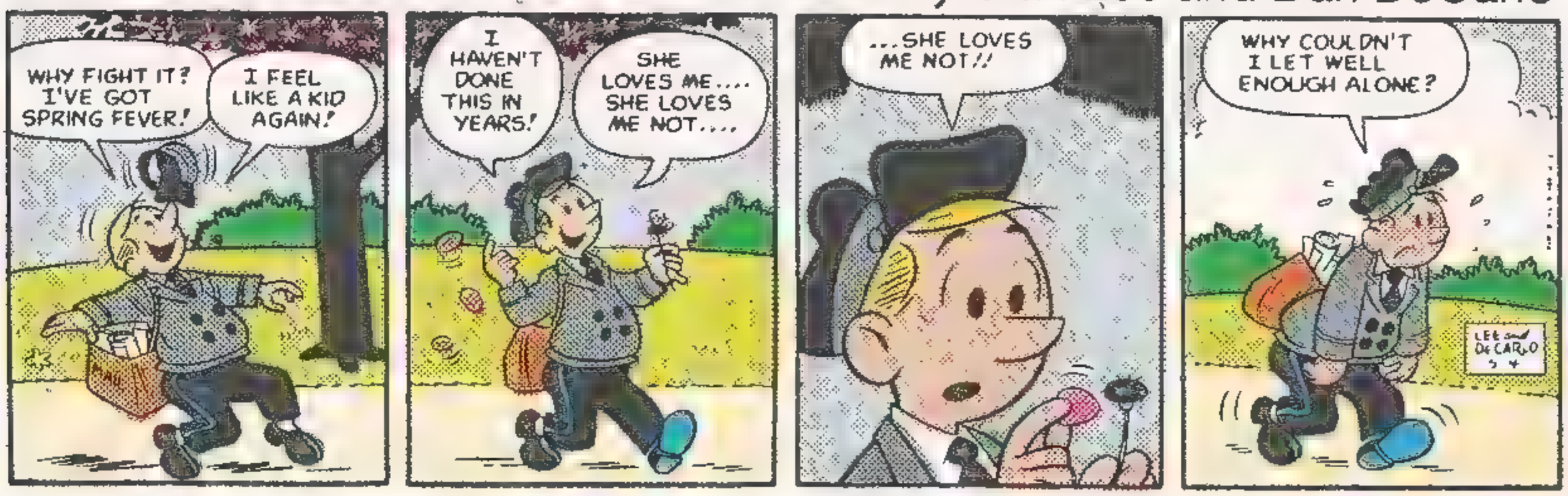
But now the time is come to turn our attention to a matter of equal weight and moment! Judging by the mountain of mail I've received from you lately (well, face it — in the right setting an anthill can look like a mountain!) it seems that many of you feel you haven't been dealt with fairly. You feel you haven't been told enough about THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN newspaper strip. Oh sure, we always talk about the comic book **Spidey**, but you feel the syndicated newspaper version has been summarily neglected.

Well, fret no longer, irate ones! Talking about your friendly neighborhood wall-crawler has always been my favorite pastime, whether it be the newspaper version or the comic book one. So I'll now try to answer as many of your questions as time and space permit. Or until my little word-processing computer begs for mercy!

Lots of you have asked how long the strip has been running in the newspapers. Wouldja believe it started early in '77? That's more than ten years! And y'know something? They tell me it's the most popular adventure strip of all, appearing in more than 500 newspapers world-wide, daily and Sunday! Not bad for a down-trodden little web-spinner with a ton of personal problems, eh?

Other letters have asked why there aren't as many big fight scenes and super hero batles in the newspaper strip as in the comic books. Okay, here's the lowdown. I can't do it because of the pacing. You see, in a comic book, you've got a full-sized page with about half-a-dozen panels to play with. More than that, you've also got page after page to devote to your fight scenes. But consider this — in a newspaper strip we've only got

WILLIE LUMPKIN *© 1987 by Stan Lee and Dan DeCarlo*


WHY FIGHT IT? I'VE GOT SPRING FEVER!
I FEEL LIKE A KID AGAIN!
I HAVEN'T DONE THIS IN YEARS!
SHE LOVES ME.... SHE LOVES ME NOT....
...SHE LOVES ME NOT!!
WHY COULDN'T I LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE?
LEE and DeCARLO

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®
By Stan Lee
IN A HOSTAGE SITUATION, THE LAST THING THE POLICE WANT IS INTERFERENCE -- BUT TRY TELLING THAT TO J. JONAH JAMESON!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE-- ARREST HIM!
HE HASN'T DONE ANYTHING! IT'S THE GUNMAN WE'RE AFTER!
THEY'RE PROBABLY PARTNERS! WHY ELSE WOULD THAT WALL CRAWLING WEASEL BE HERE?
MISTER, I'VE ONLY ONE THING TO SAY TO YOU!
WHAT'S THAT?
SHUDDUP!
GLLLGG!
THWIPP!
STAN LEE & FLOR DERY
LOOK I'M YOUR ONLY CHANCE! I CAN GET TO HIM, BUT I NEED A DIVERSION!
THWIP!
SAVED THAT HELICOPTER! WHILE HE'S RATCHETING IT THROUGH THE WINDOW, I'LL MAKE MY MOVE!
NEXT: WHEN STRIKES THE SPIDER!

about three panels a day in which to tell our story and/or present our epic battles. In the first panel, we try to summarize what's happened the day before, to refresh the reader's memory. The second panel is used to carry the storyline forward, pure and simple. Then we wrap it all up with panel #3, using that one as a cliff hanger.

Okay, with all that to consider, you can see why big, epic-type battle scenes just aren't practical in a daily strip. As you can imagine, it would look silly for someone to hit Spidey in panel three of a Monday strip and then we'd see him fall in the first panel of Tuesday's strip. The continuity just doesn't seem right that way.

Another query that's often tossed at me is, who's drawing the newspaper strips? That's an easy one. The daily episodes are illustrated by **Lusty Larry Lieber**, who also happens to be my entire brother. (I'll explain the name disparity in some future column when I'm desperately trying to think of something to write about!) Larry used to draw THE RAWHIDE KID for Marvel (remember?) as well as a number of Spidey comic books and other features. The versatile guy also did THE HULK newspaper strip as well in the early 70's.

The Sunday pages are illustrated by **Friendly Floro Dery**, a west coast animator whom I've known for years and who, while his style is totally different from Larry's, still manages to do a knockout Sunday page each week, with each artist's technique actually complementing the other! So, between L.L. and F.D. it seems that Mr. Parker's newspaper future is in mighty good hands.

But wait, don't let me forget to answer the most oft-asked question of all — how long does it take me to write the strip? I can do an entire week's story in one day, normally. (Although nothing about this biz is ever normal!) Because of that, I stay home from the studio on Wednesdays and devote that day to Spidey's titillating torments and travail.

Then there's the poser asked of every comic strip writer and/or artist since comics were born — how far ahead of your deadline are you?

Because I'm such an intrinsically wonderful human being, I usually stay about one month ahead of deadline. However, since it takes longer to draw a strip than to write it, poor Larry and Floro are usually about 12 seconds ahead of their deadlines. If I ever sneeze, and either of them takes the time to say "Gesundeit!" the strip would probably be late! And you wonder why we're nervous wrecks! (That's also the reason I run for the hills if I feel a sneeze coming on!)

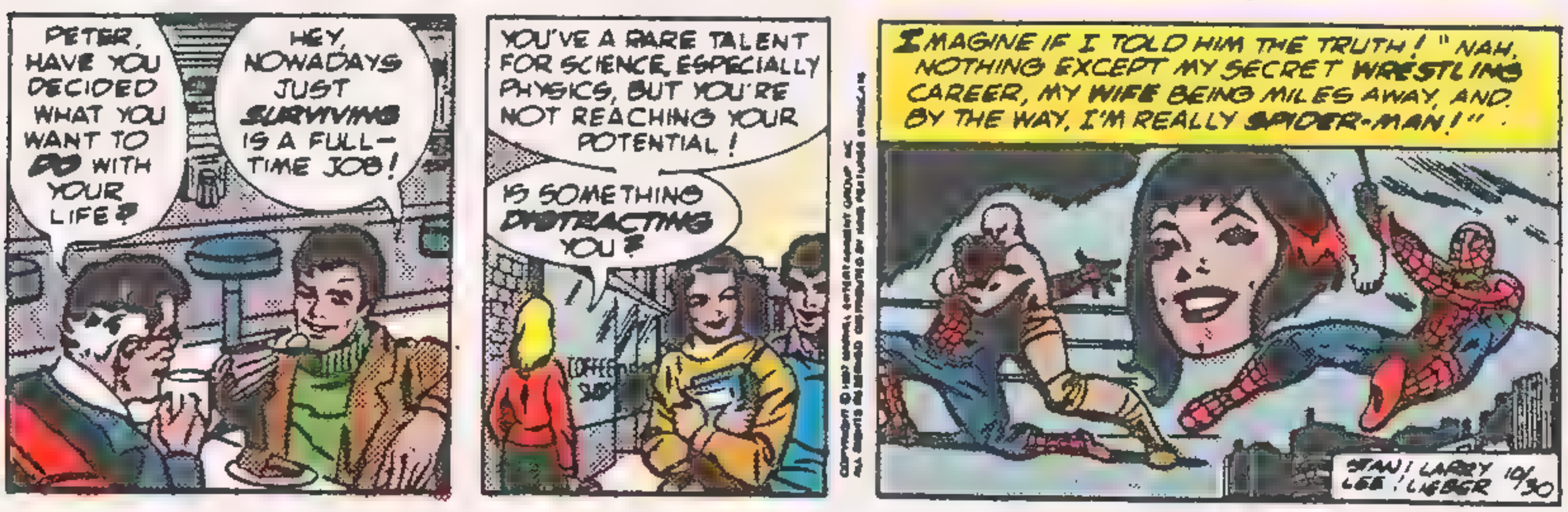
Now for the final, wrap-up question. A number of you have written to say that your local newspaper doesn't carry Spidey's strip and you've asked what to do about it. Well, the best course of action in the case of such a shocking situation is to take pen in hand and write an indignant letter to the editor of your paper. Alert him to the folly of arousing the righteous wrath of Marveldom Assembled! Tell him the Constitution grants you the same rights under the law as are given to those who read comic books!

However, if all else fails, we'll simply call J. Jonah Jameson and see what HE can do!

So, till MJ tells Peter to take out the garbage, this is your ol' Soapboxer, wishing you health, wealth and happiness. If you want anything more, you're on your own!

Excelsior!

Stan


PETER, HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WITH YOUR LIFE?
HEY, NOWADAYS JUST SURVIVING IS A FULL-TIME JOB!
YOU'VE A RARE TALENT FOR SCIENCE, ESPECIALLY PHYSICS, BUT YOU'RE NOT REACHING YOUR POTENTIAL!
IS SOMETHING DISTRACTING YOU?
IMAGINE IF I TOLD HIM THE TRUTH! "NAH, NOTHING EXCEPT MY SECRET WRESTLING CAREER, MY WIFE BEING MILES AWAY, AND BY THE WAY, I'M REALLY SPIDER-MAN!"
STAN LEE / LARRY LIEBER 10/30

BLACK PANTHER™

The Man and The Myth!

In the past he's been identified as the Royal Avenger, King of the Wakandas and heir to the totemic powers of The Black Panther. In the new four-issue BLACK PANTHER Limited Series written by Peter Gillis and drawn by Denys Cowan T'Challa is essentially stripped of all these external identities and examined as a man. Using the backdrop of global politics, particularly the horrors of South Africa's apartheid-created civil war, one of Marvel's original and consistently controversial heroes is forced to re-evaluate his place in the quickly changing world of black Africa.

Of course, the Black Panther has always had a history of tackling hard-hitting social issues. One of his earliest adventures with the Avengers saw him battling the racist Sons of the Serpent during the sixties. In the seventies he found himself in a one man war against the real life threat of the Ku Klux Klan. Now in a story about the eighties T'Challa must confront the ancient forces of ignorance and hatred in his own back yard - this time they're wearing the mask of apartheid.

Whereas many of today's heroes have achieved their super powers through mutant genes or scientific accidents, the power of the Black Panther is unique in that it is hereditary. For centuries T'Challa's ancestors have been ruling their isolated South African kingdom of Wakanda as both royal and spiritual leaders. Having spent much of his time over the

past several years dividing this attention between being a full-time king and part-time super hero in his role as an Avenger, T'Challa suddenly becomes aware of the fact he's been neglecting the awesome responsibilties of his heritage.

This becomes painfully clear to him when the essence of the Black Panther God, the jungle deity that resides in his body and whom he has been taking for granted, abandons T'Challa in search of a more worthy vessel! The immediate recipient of the mystically created abilities of heightened awareness, senses, reflexes, and strength, is a holy man being beaten to death in a South African prison. What the Black Panther God does to the dying man's tormentors clearly illustrates that this is a god enraged. Determined to free the people of South Africa suffering the bondage of apartheid, the Black Panther God actively seeks to instigate the much needed and long delayed change in the country that is its homeland. This silent, ferocious, ruthless version of the Black Panther adds a new dimension to the heretofore unexamined aspect of T'Challa's powers.

Although this synopsis seems to give away the entire plot for the Limited Series — All this takes place in the first few pages of issue one!

On the subject of issue one, it hasn't even been mentioned that the emotionally handicapped T'Challa must battle four of South Africa's "heroes," the Supremists, fighting for the first time in his life without his jungle powers. How does this affect his fighting prowess while defending himself against the **White Avenger**, **Barricade**, **Voortrekker**, and **Harrier**? Peter Gillis explains.

"Up until now, when T'Challa has gone into battle, there's been a constant, single 'voice' of the Black Panther God that has kept him focused on the task at hand. With that inner voice gone, a good part of the Black Panther's confidence is shattered because he's suddenly inundated by his many natural fears, self doubts, and inclinations to think everything out before making a decision to act." Add to this the loss of his heightened senses and catlike reflexes, and T'Challa is in for the fight of his life. (And all this before he's confronted by the Black Panther God itself!)

Again, it appears as though the series' plot has been given away. The truth is, all this takes place in the second half of the first issue!

Anyone familiar with the evolution of this particular Black Panther saga (as first covered in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #20), knows that this story, originally edited by now-Special

Projects Editor **Bob Budiansky**, has been three years in the making.

The first look at Denys's art gives a clear example that everyone involved in this project has taken time to make this some of his best work. Never has the Black Panther looked more regal one moment, or as ferociously feral the next. Equally exciting is the way he handles the artistic juxtaposition of a jungle kingdom that owes its fortune to the advanced technology based on the mysterious vibranium metal.

As indicated above, the time has been well spent on the weaving of a plot that goes on to include T'Challa's disgrace as he's banished from the kingdom that he's so miserably, however inadvertently, failed. Whereas most dethroned kings might bitterly forsake an unappreciative people, T'Challa immediately discovers his people are the victims of nuclear blackmail! An evil, bigoted general in the South African army has a nuclear warhead aimed at the heart of Wakanda, and only the power-stripped, confidence-shaken, exiled T'Challa stands a chance of saving his former kingdom.

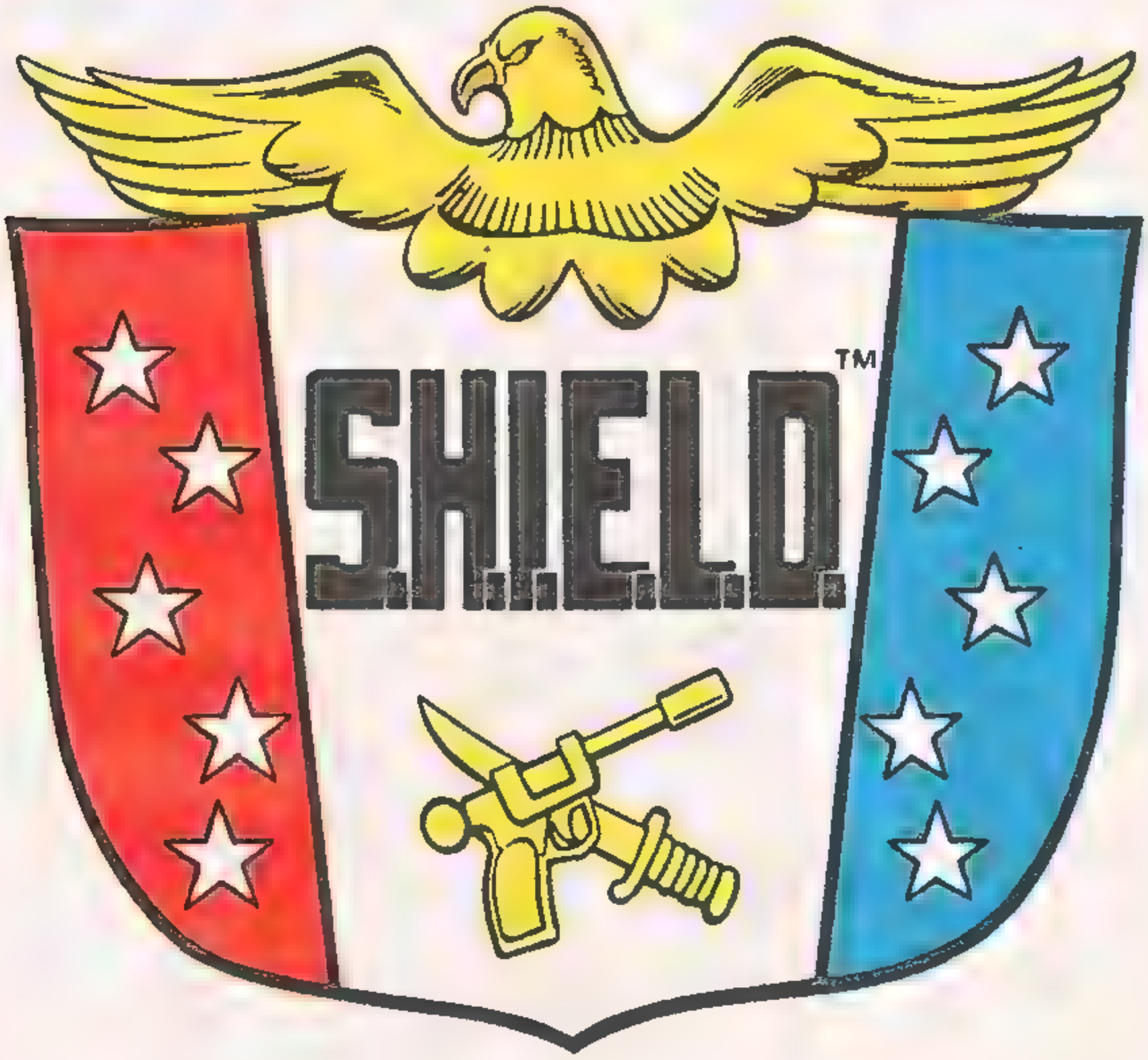
And all this takes place before the end of the second issue! Imagine, halfway through one of the most requested Limited Series ever, and there's already enough excitement to carry most continuing series for years.

Although theres still plenty of action and adventure left in the second half of the Limited Series (including a brief relationship with a beautiful political attaché in Paris, a riot inspired by the Black Panther God posing as T'Challa, and the young king's self-actualization as he comes to his own enlightened resolutions about the problems in South Africa and how they'll continue to affect him as a person first and a political leader second). Peter has left enough subtle subplots in the event the fans demand another ongoing Black Panther series.

Whether or not T'Challa will be in any condition to star in future Black Panther adventures remains to be seen . . .

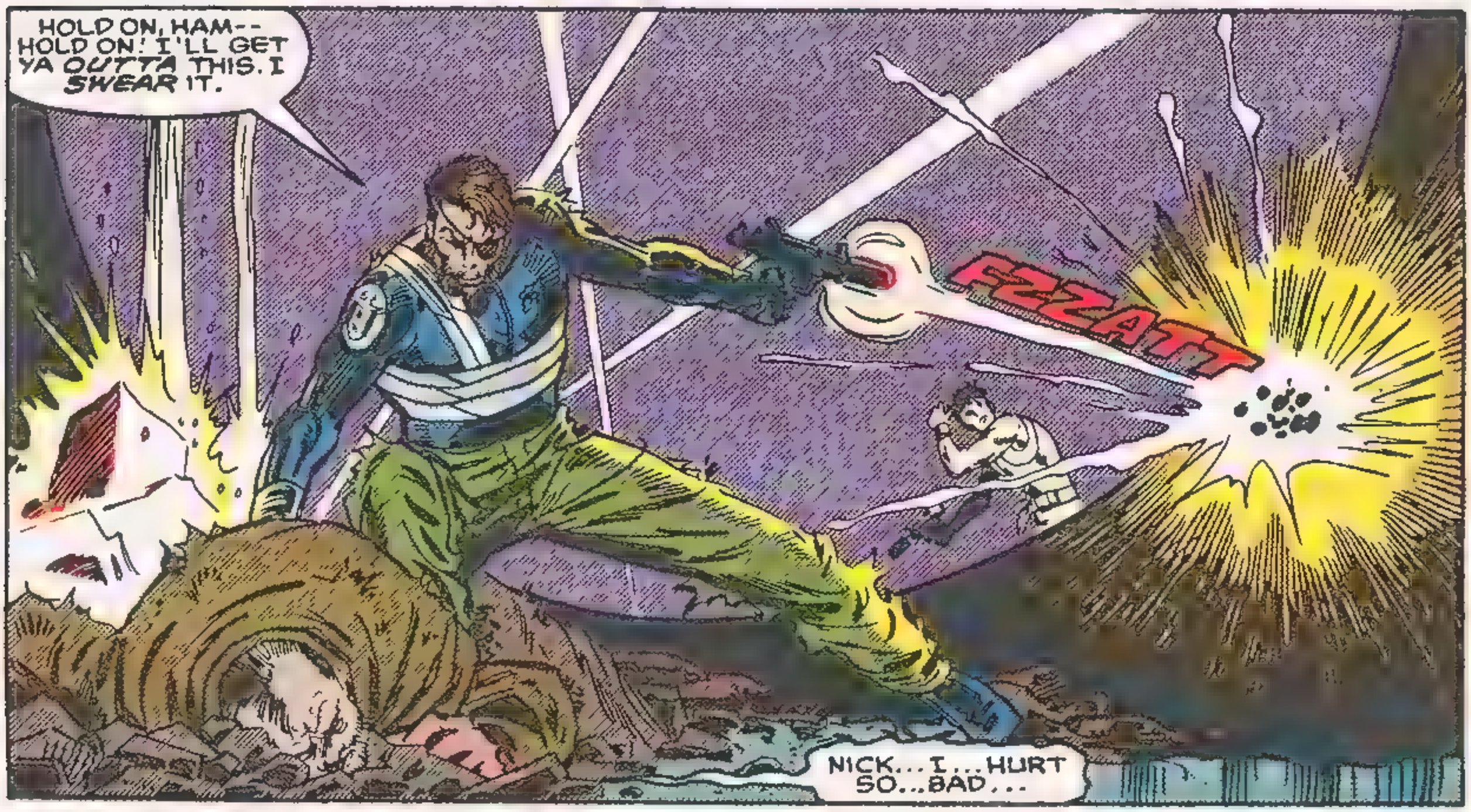
—*Scott Lobdell*

NICK FURY™ VERSUS



It was as the hard-charging, cigar-chomping, profane sergeant leading his **Howling Commandos** against the Axis in World War II that fans first saw **Nick Fury**. Unrestrained, earthy, yet noble and sensitive, his strength lay not in any super power, but in his iron character. But it was not with his rousing World War II exploits that Nick Fury won his greatest fame in the Marvel Universe. That came when he accepted the leadership of the United States' greatest counter-intelligence organization, the Supreme Headquarters International Espionage Law-Enforcement Division — **S.H.I.E.L.D.**

In the late sixties and early seventies, first as a co-feature in STRANGE



TALES and then in its own title, NICK FURY, AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. was to comics what the **James Bond** adventures were to movies. And what **Sean Connery** was to James Bond, writer/artist **Jim Steranko** was to S.H.I.E.L.D.

In adventures that were among the most visually exciting in comics, and with an array of weapons, vehicles, and gadgets that might have put even Bond's legendary "Q" to shame, Nick Fury and his agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. battled secret organizations and people determined to overthrow the United States government. The greatest of these nemeses were the monolithic **Hydra**, the super-scientific **A.I.M.**, the impenetrable **Secret Society**, and the incredible **Yellow Claw**. In addition, Nick Fury's modern war took on a personal edge, first against his former Nazi enemy, **Baron Strucker**, and then against his own brother, who had become the super-villain, **Scorpio**.

But in NICK FURY VS. S.H.I.E.L.D., the bookshelf format six-issue Limited Series written by **Bob Harras**, penciled by **Paul Neary** and inked by **Kim DeMulder**, S.H.I.E.L.D.'s executive committee fires Fury and declares him a traitor. And S.H.I.E.L.D.'s new director, Fury's one-time protegé, **Jasper Sitwell**, marshals all of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s forces for one over-riding mission: kill Nick Fury!

How could a man so trusted by his nation as Nick Fury suddenly be branded a traitor and sentenced to death without a trial? "Nick Fury discovers in the course of human events that S.H.I.E.L.D. is not the organization he thought it was," Bob Harras said. "He discovers, in fact, that it may be linked to Hydra and A.I.M. So Fury goes to S.H.I.E.L.D.'s executive committee and tells them what he's discovered. They tell him that his news is horrible, and that they'll work on it. Five minutes later the committee announces that Nick Fury is wanted for treason and should be shot on sight."

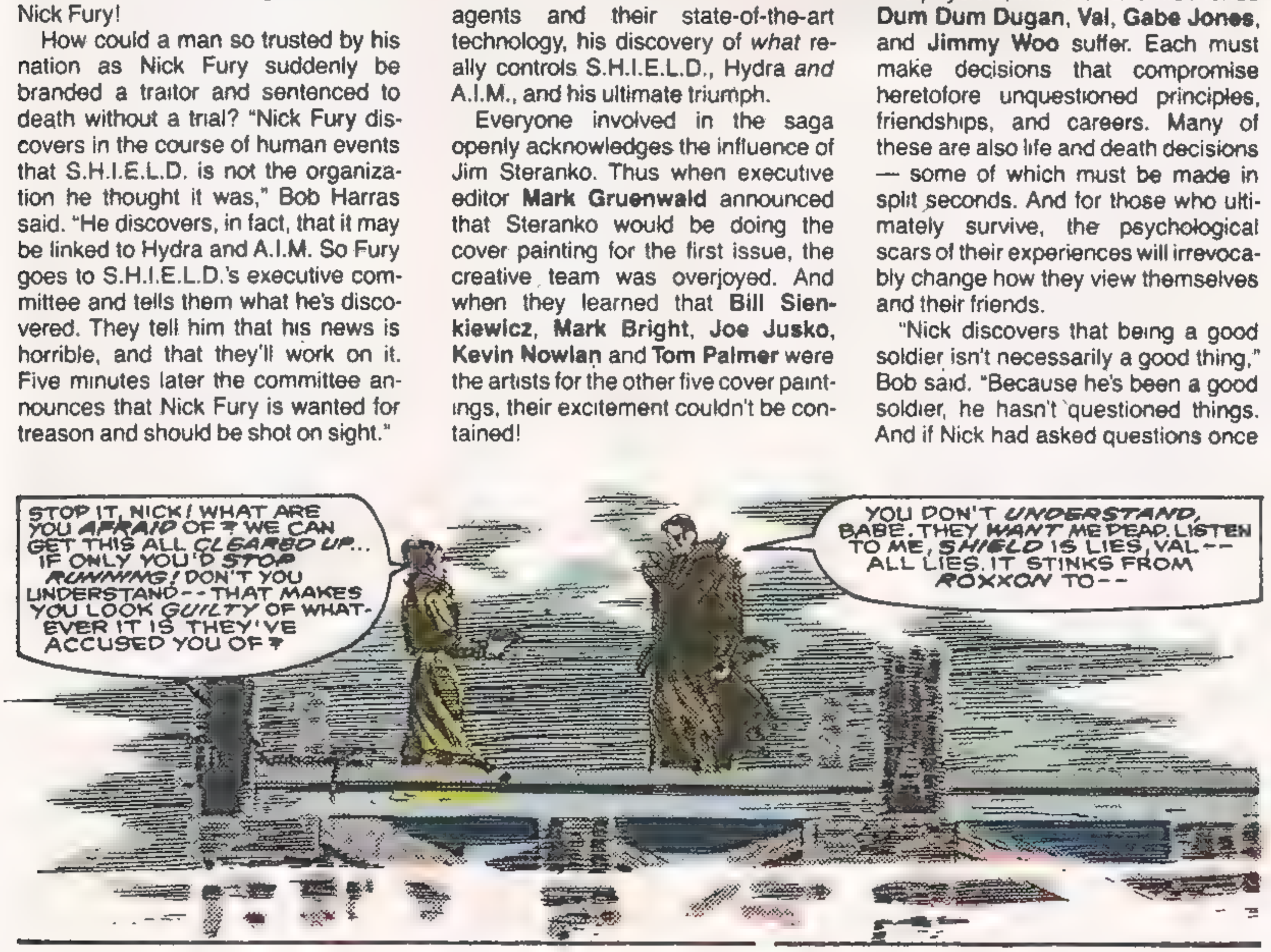
THAT IS TOO BAD, OLD MAN! BECAUSE YOU CANNOT STOP ME. I AM FAR, FAR STRONGER THAN YOU. PITIFUL OLD FOOL!
SHE'S RIGHT, BLAST IT! SHE'S RIGHT!

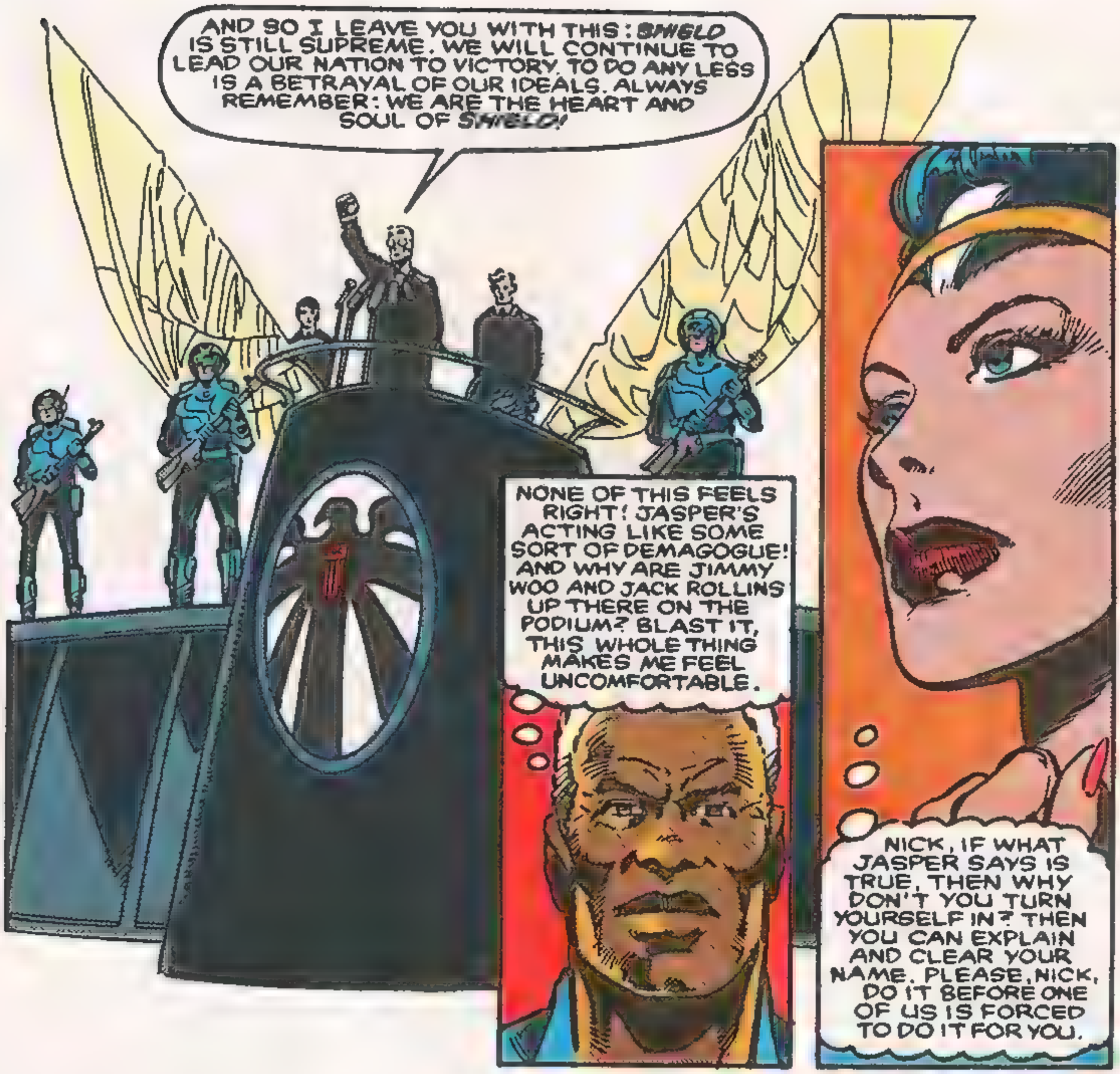
This Limited Series is a fast-paced chronicle of Fury's abrupt fall from power, his desperate battle against both friends and faceless S.H.I.E.L.D. agents and their state-of-the-art technology, his discovery of *what* really controls S.H.I.E.L.D., Hydra *and* A.I.M., and his ultimate triumph.

Everyone involved in the saga openly acknowledges the influence of Jim Steranko. Thus when executive editor **Mark Gruenwald** announced that Steranko would be doing the cover painting for the first issue, the creative team was overjoyed. And when they learned that **Bill Sienkiewicz**, **Mark Bright**, **Joe Jusko**, **Kevin Nowlan** and **Tom Palmer** were the artists for the other five cover paintings, their excitement couldn't be contained!

What sets this Limited Series apart from all previous S.H.I.E.L.D. adventures are the conflicts, both personal and physical, that Nick and his friends **Dum Dum Dugan**, **Val**, **Gabe Jones**, and **Jimmy Woo** suffer. Each must make decisions that compromise heretofore unquestioned principles, friendships, and careers. Many of these are also life and death decisions — some of which must be made in split seconds. And for those who ultimately survive, the psychological scars of their experiences will irrevocably change how they view themselves and their friends.

"Nick discovers that being a good soldier isn't necessarily a good thing," Bob said. "Because he's been a good soldier, he hasn't questioned things. And if Nick had asked questions once


STOP IT, NICK! WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF? WE CAN GET THIS ALL CLEARED UP... IF ONLY YOU'D STOP RUNNING! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND--THAT MAKES YOU LOOK GUILTY OF WHATEVER IT IS THEY'VE ACCUSED YOU OF?
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BABE. THEY WANT ME DEAD. LISTEN TO ME, SHIELD IS LIES, VAL--ALL LIES. IT STINKS FROM ROXXON TO--


AND SO I LEAVE YOU WITH THIS: SHIELD IS STILL SUPREME. WE WILL CONTINUE TO LEAD OUR NATION TO VICTORY. TO DO ANY LESS IS A BETRAYAL OF OUR IDEALS. ALWAYS REMEMBER: WE ARE THE HEART AND SOUL OF SHIELD!
NONE OF THIS FEELS RIGHT! JASPER'S ACTING LIKE SOME SORT OF DEMAGOGUE! AND WHY ARE JIMMY WOO AND JACK ROLLINS UP THERE ON THE PODIUM? BLAST IT, THIS WHOLE THING MAKES ME FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE.
NICK, IF WHAT JASPER SAYS IS TRUE, THEN WHY DON'T YOU TURN YOURSELF IN? THEN YOU CAN EXPLAIN AND CLEAR YOUR NAME. PLEASE, NICK, DO IT BEFORE ONE OF US IS FORCED TO DO IT FOR YOU.

in a while, maybe he wouldn't be in the fix he is."

In addition, the Limited Series explores and resolves the reason why S.H.I.E.L.D. has had such an ominous, paradoxical good/bad image. **Mark Gruenwald**, the Limited Series' editor, said, "In the seventies, S.H.I.E.L.D. was giving the **Avengers** grief, the **Fantastic Four** grief, it would give **Iron Man** grief . . . anybody and everybody was a potential target. After that, the problem grew from individual cases to some actual corruption within the organization. Now, Nick Fury was not aware of what everybody in all of his far-flung organization was doing. So through the seventies and into the eighties, S.H.I.E.L.D. has appeared to be very unpredictable, and frightening.

"What we're trying to do now is get back to the roots of what S.H.I.E.L.D. was when it was first created — a straightforward secret agent organization. In order to do that, we've got to deal with all the bad stuff that they did in the seventies and eighties.

"The Limited Series will sweep us all over the world and ultimately to the S.H.I.E.L.D. satellite. And at the end of the whole shebang S.H.I.E.L.D. will have been totally dissected and changed."

Writer Bob Harras and penciler Paul Neary are more noted as editor and inker, respectively. This Limited Series is proving to be, as Assistant Editor **Gregory Wright** said, "a terrific showcase for their talents. The artwork on S.H.I.E.L.D. is probably the best artwork we've seen from Paul Neary. And Bob Harras is a very visual writer. Both Bob and Paul enjoyed the Steranko S.H.I.E.L.D. stories, and you will see a lot of Steranko's influence. Also, Paul's been doing so much inking over the art of **Alan Davis**, the penciler for EXCALIBUR, that he's actually picking up a bit of Alan's storytelling.

"Kim DeMulder may not be a familiar inker to many people. He inked **John Byrne's** pencils on the SHE-HULK Graphic Novel, which had a lot of S.H.I.E.L.D. stuff in it. Kim has a real dynamic inking style which complements Paul's pencils. Kim is also a big Steranko fan, so there's a lot of the Steranko inking, zip-a-tone and psychedelic color hold effects."

Because the Limited Series is in the high-quality bookshelf format, coloring was a special consideration. Greg, himself a colorist, explained, "I would hate it if a person picked up an issue and said, 'Gee, it looks like any other comic.' We needed somebody who could color unusual effects, do camera-ready color, and give us a look that we've seen in modern science-fiction movies because S.H.I.E.L.D. is very much a science-fiction book. **Bernie Jay**, who had done a lot of coloring in the United Kingdom, wanted to do the coloring for the Limited Series. We sent her some pages to do samples for us. What we got from her was exactly the look we wanted. Her coloring helps makes this Limited Series special."

In the end, will Fury return to S.H.I.E.L.D., or will he strike out on his own? That is a question not even the creative team can answer. But what is certain is that in a series which has conflict everywhere, Bob stated, "It'll be Nick's final conflict!"

—Dwight Jon Zimmerman

STAR COMICS® SPOTLIGHT

LITTLE WIZARDS™

I got the call in my 29th floor office in Manhattan. (**Jim Salicrup** lets me moonlight as a lawyer.) It was **Dwight Zimmerman**, MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE's dauntless managing editor. He had a new assignment for me — an article about the newest Star Comic, LITTLE WIZARDS

I immediately canceled the two depositions I had scheduled and bowed out of the litigation luncheon and told my secretary to book me on a flight to Zedonia. The only problem was that there are no flights to Zedonia!

Zedonia is a country in the midst of a civil war of sorts. When the old king died, it was expected that his son, **Prince Dexter**, would succeed him. The only problem was that Dexter is just a boy — certainly too young to rule. But somebody's got to run the country. That somebody turns out to be **Renwick**, the late king's wizard. The rub is that Renwick is evil, as bad as they come. Although his "reign" is supposed to be temporary, only until Dexter comes of age, Renwick has no intention of ever releasing the reins of power. He throws Dexter into the dungeon and expects never to hear from him again.

But Dexter is made of sterner stuff. He escapes and flees to the woodland abode of **Phineas**. Like Renwick, Phineas is a wizard, but he's one of the good ones. His magic is strictly white. Before long, Dexter is studying with Phineas, learning the secrets of sorcery and planning ultimately to overthrow the brutal reign of Renwick and take his place as the rightful heir to the throne.

I found all this out when I finally arrived in Zedonia. (Don't even ask how I got there!) I immediately sought out Phineas. His headquarters are not easy to find, since he lives in a hollow tree, but finally I found it. He ushered me in. A very hospitable type is Phineas. (I guess he'd have to be to take in an outlaw prince!) His housekeeper/dragon, **Lulu**, brought me some milk and cookies.

As I'd entered the tree, I'd noticed three little . . . well, monsters. I asked Phineas about them. "Oh, they're the result of an accident I had. A magical, chemical mistake, but I like them." He then introduced me.

Winkle appears to be a baby girl monster. She showed me how she flies by puffing out her cheeks. **Boo** reminds me a little of a baby **Don Knotts**. He can disappear, except for his eyes. **Gump** can change into different objects. His feet, however, always show, giving him away.

Like Dexter, these three little monsters are learning wizardry from Phineas. And as you would expect, these apprentice wizards are apt to experiment. And when they do, you never know what's going to happen!

I asked Dexter what his future plans were. "I don't want to say," he replied. "I wouldn't want to give Renwick any clues." Whatever he has up his sleeve, you can bet it won't be dull!

As for Renwick, not surprisingly, he refused to grant me an interview.

Upon my return to New York, I stopped by the Marvel offices to see editor **Sid Jacobson** and writer **Laura Hitchcock**. Sid, who coordinates the entire Star line, was wildly enthusiastic about LITTLE WIZARDS, which was created by our animation wizards at Marvel Productions. With Laura writing the book and **Ben Brown** and **Jon D'Agostino** handling the artwork, he's sure it will be a great success.

Laura Hitchcock is no stranger to readers of the Star lines. She is Sid's assistant editor and has written issues of HEATHCLIFF, CARE BEARS, and THUNDERCATS. She is also the regular writer of MUPPET BABIES and is writing the adaptation of the upcoming **Felix the Cat** movie. Like Sid, she is very enthusiastic about the book. "Those kind of things appeal to me," she told MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. "Magic and all that stuff."

For those of you who can't get enough of LITTLE WIZARDS, there is the animated series on Saturday mornings. Need I add that it's produced by Marvel Productions?

I enjoyed my visit to Zedonia. In fact, I liked it so much that I bought a little condo there for my summer vacation. It's in a nice neighborhood, just a few trees down from Phineas. But for those of you who can't get away to Zedonia, read LITTLE WIZARDS. You won't be sorry.

—*Sandy Hausler, J.D.*

THE MARVEL® AGE 1976 Part IV

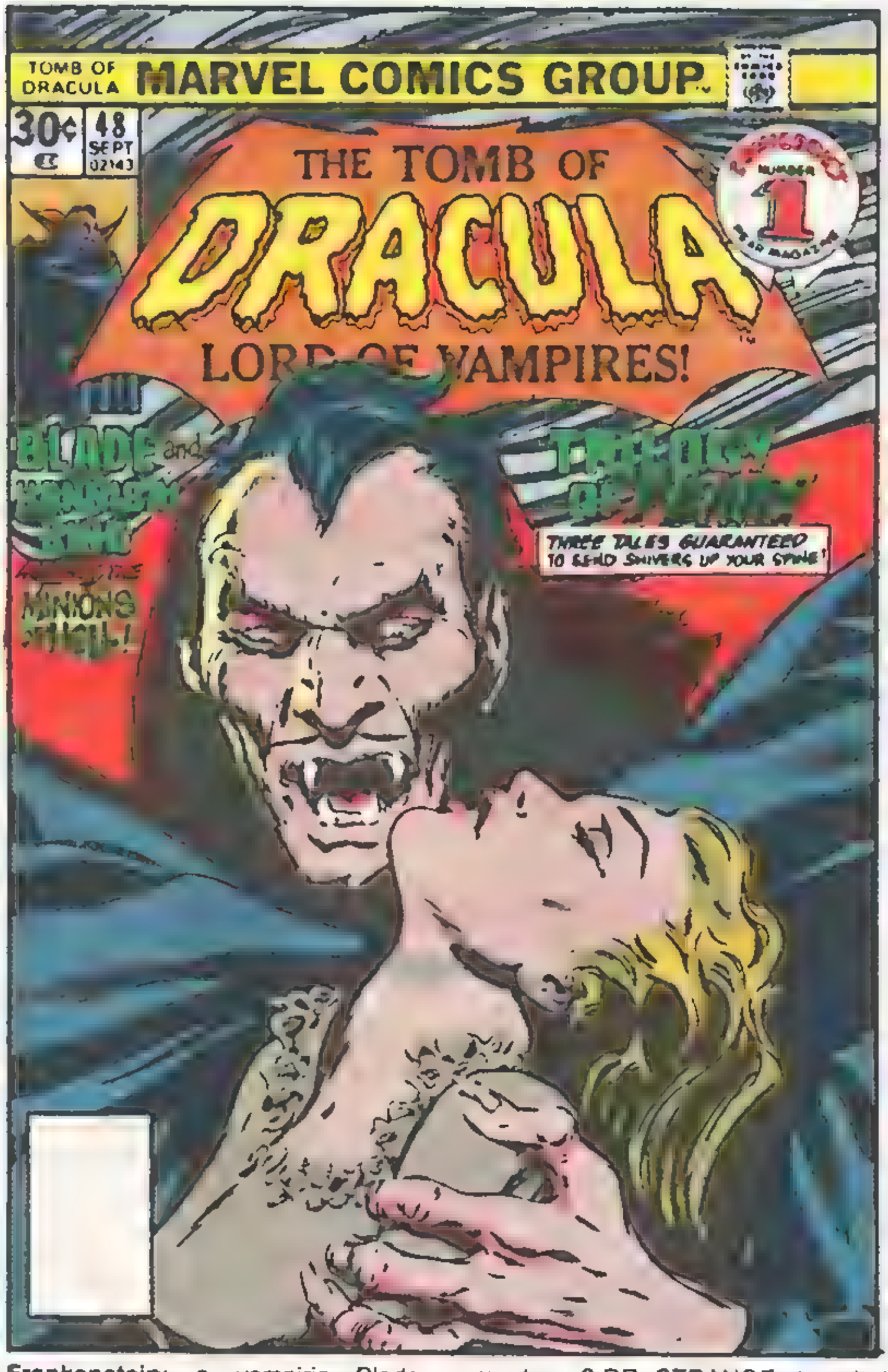
In 1976, I was graduating from high school, getting set to deal with the "real world." But if that seemed scary, it was nothing compared to the various fear-fests and monster books Marvel was releasing back then!

Dracula had been killed by **Dr. Sun**, killed so dead there seemed no way of bringing him back! But Dr. Sun was an even worse menace, and only Dracula had a prayer (if you'll pardon the expression) of stopping him! Scripter **Marv Wolfman** had a secret plan, though, an obscure fact of vampire lore that's absolutely genuine: the tears of a virgin over a vampire's ashes will bring him back to life! Wasn't it lucky that **Aurora Rabinowitz** had never — well, you know?

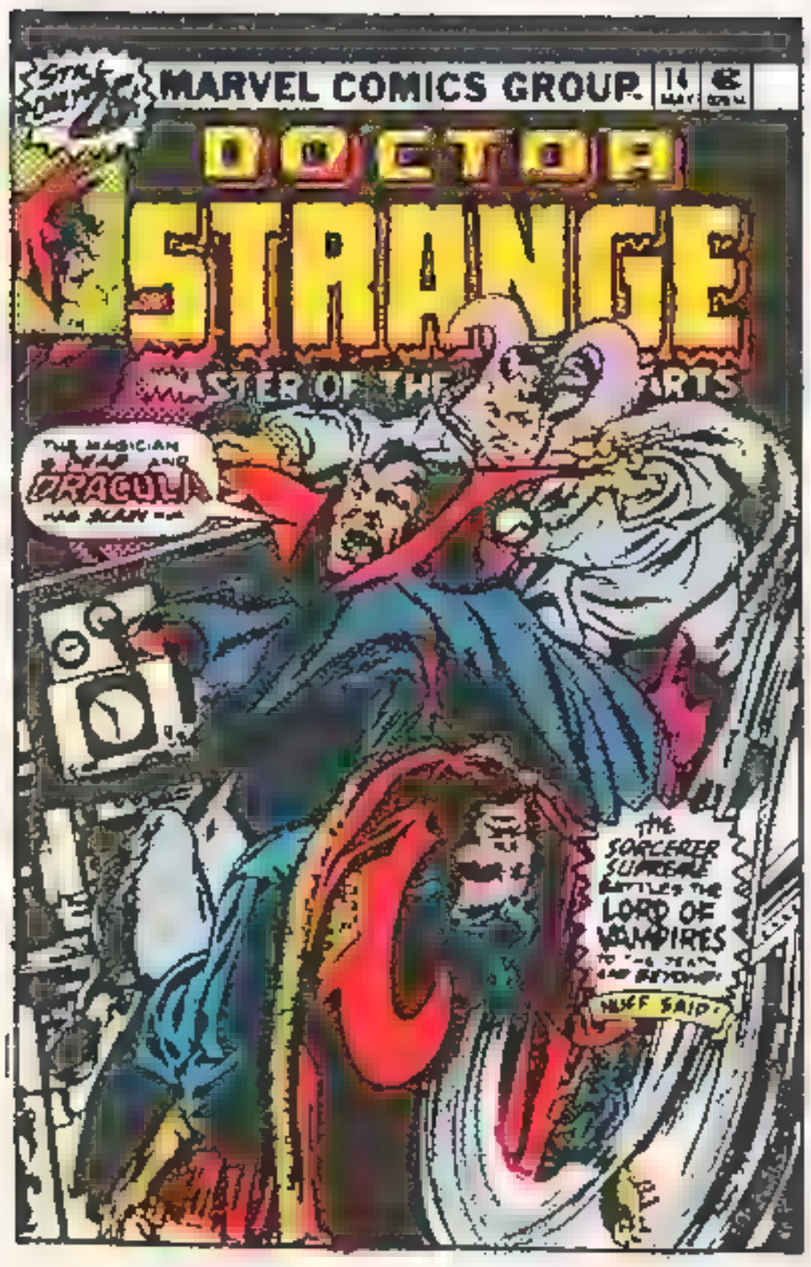
Dracula teamed with his enemies, **Blade** and **Frank Drake**, to end the menace of Dr. Sun, and the vampire-hunters were left to hope they'd made the right choice. Drac, meanwhile, made the wrong choice for his next victim: **Dr. Strange's** manservant, **Wong**! The Sorcerer Supreme and the Lord of Vampires had it out, and although Dracula seemed to win the moment, fanging ol' Doc right in the jugular, when the story crossed over into DR. STRANGE, the tables turned! Let's not forget that Stephen Strange has overcome **Death** itself, after all . . .

Reeling in defeat, Dracula sought succor among a Satanic cult in Boston, and took to wife one of its acolytes, the young, graceful **Domini**. Believing Dracula to be the devil, the cultists employed mystic rites to enable Dracula to impregnate Domini. Thus began TOMB OF DRACULA's most startling storyline — Dracula would become a father! Or would he? Why, then, did the portrait of **Christ**, which hung in the abandoned church the cultists called home, seem to watch everything so serenely?

As Domini's pregnancy continued, Dracula met an amazing gallery of foes, including an invalid who brought to life the spirits of **Robin Hood** and



Frankenstein; a vampiric Blade created by the scheming **Deacon Frost**; and the one-and-only **Silver Surfer**! But what about the Master of the Mystic Arts we mentioned a moment ago? DR. STRANGE struggled to free **Eternity** from the clutches of **Nightmare** — for in a dream, Eternity had destroyed the Earth, and Eternity's dreams come true! Dr. Strange


MARVEL COMICS GROUP
DOCTOR STRANGE
THE MAGICIAN AND DRACULA HAS-BEEN
THE SORCERER SUPREME BATTLES THE LORD OF VAMPIRES
NUFF SAID!

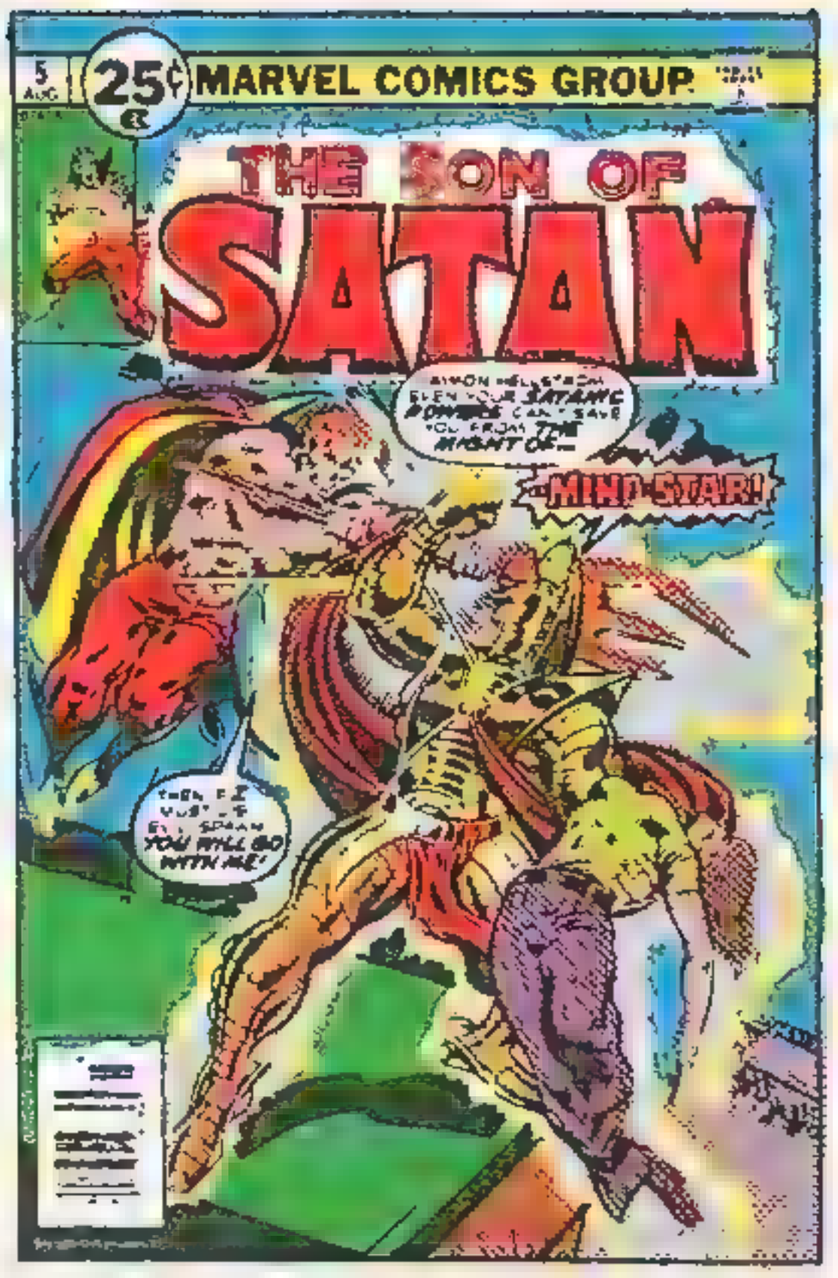
no sooner convinced Eternity to re-create the Earth, than he found himself under attack from Dracula — and drove him off by calling on help from **God**!

This opened Doc to attack from God's foremost adversary, as he and **Clea** were swept into the realm of **Satan** himself! With the aid of **Lord Phyffe** and **Rama Kaliph**, and the strength of his own faith, Doc endured. After all this, it was time for a vacation! To celebrate the Bicentennial, Doc and Clea traveled back in time to witness the mystic origins of America — first with **Francis Bacon**, in London of 1618, then with **Ben Franklin** himself! While Ben entertained Clea, Doc discovered a new threat — the time-trapping wizard, **Stygyro**! **Xander** and the **Quadriverse** were behind dire plots on Doc's life, in a saga that extended well into 1977. For those who couldn't wait that long, there was always the DR. STRANGE ANNUAL, in which Doc encountered **Lectra** of Phaseworld!

Another hero wrestling back the power of Hell was the SON OF SATAN — in his new mag, **Daimon Hellstrom** waged war against **the Possessor**, whose ultimate goal was to become Lord of Hell itself! In what he laughingly thought of as free time, Daimon began teaching at District University in Washington, DC, where he met the young witch, **Seripha Thames**. Seripha and her coven were to prove invaluable to Daimon in surviving his next nemeses, the mental master **Mind-Star** and his mentor, **Anubis**! Daimon also popped up in GHOST RIDER, along with some even more unusual guest-stars, ELFQUEST creators **Richard** and **Wendy Pini**!

Johnny Blaze's fellow stunt-actor, **Katy Milner**, had been possessed by Satan's demons, and to free her, the ethereal **Challenger** dared Johnny to prove himself in the most death-defying race imaginable. Johnny's triumph not only defeated Satan, but restored Katy to her true identity, that of Johnny's lost love, **Roxanne Simpson**! An order regained in his life, Johnny handily defeated **Death's Head** (with aid from guest-star DAREDEVIL), **the Eel**, and **the Gladiator** before year's end!

Another supernatural star in for big changes was WEREWOLF BY NIGHT! 1976 began with **Jack Russell** and his friends defeating the specter of **Belaric Marcosa**, and thus winning the life-energy that could cure his wounded friend, **Buck Cowan**. Despite this noble deed, Jack was despairing of ever conquering the curse of the werewolf, and contemplating suicide — until dissuaded from it by the mystic spirits, **the Three-Who-Are-All**! The Three sent Jack on an eldritch odyssey, encountering **Brother Voodoo**, a host of Zuvembies, fellow werewolf **Raymond Coker**, the insidious **Dr. Glitternight**, and the prenatural **Fire-Eyes**! Emerging from his trials unscathed, Jack found himself



MARVEL COMICS PRICE GUIDE

Okay, you know the routine by now, right? Here's a quick guide to how much your wallet will feel it if you pick up the mags we've just talked about in your local comics specialty store. As always, our source is **Robert Overstreet's** THE COMIC BOOK PRICE GUIDE #17. But remember — this is only a guide. Actual prices may vary, and should be even less for copies in fair or poor condition.

	CONDITION Good	Fine	Mint
■ **DOC SAVAGE (magazine)**			
3–6		.50	1.00
■ **DOCTOR STRANGE**			
12–20)		.50	1.00
ANNUAL 1 (**Russell** art)	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **GHOST RIDER**			
16–19	.35	1.00	2.00
20 (ga **Daredevil, Byrne** art)	.70	2.00	4.00
21		.60	1.20
■ **MARVEL PREVIEW (magazine)**			
4 (intro **Star-Lord**)	1.20	3.50	7.00
5–6 (**Sherlock Holmes**)	.50	1.50	3 00
7–9	.35	1.00	2.00
■ **MARVEL SUPER ACTION (magazine)**			
1 (**Punisher, Dominic Fortune**)	.70	2.00	4.00
■ **MARVEL TREASURY EDITION (tabloid)**			
12 (**Howard the Duck**)		50	1.00
■ **MARVEL TREASURY OF OZ (tabloid)**			
1		.60	1.20
■ **MARVEL TREASURY SPECIAL (tabloid)**			
CAPT. AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL BATTLES		.50	1.00
■ **MGM'S MARVELOUS WIZARD OF OZ (tabloid)**			
1	.70	2.00	4.00
■ **PLANET OF THE APES (magazine)**			
16–20		.50	1.00
21–27		.40	.80
■ **SON OF SATAN**			
2		.25	.50
3–7		.20	.40
■ **SUPERMAN VS. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (tabloid)**			
1	.50	1.00	3.00
1 (2nd printing, signed by **Lee/Infantino**)	.85	2.50	5.00
■ **TOMB OF DRACULA**			
40		.45	.90
41–51		.35	.70
■ **WEREWOLF BY NIGHT**			
36, 38–41		.25	.50
37 (ga **Moon Knight**)	1.00	3.00	6.00

with an amazing new power: the ability to change to his werewolf form at will!

Marvel magazines featured other horror heroes, as well as a score of other worthies. MARVEL PREVIEW introduced **Star-Lord**, the Earthman whose destiny lay in the galaxies; **Sherlock Holmes**, in a two-issue adaptation of "The Hound of the Baskervilles"; and the Sword in the Star, a fantasy serial which marked the first appearance of **Rocket Raccoon**! **Satana** starred in a book-length saga, fighting to regain her own identity after a brainwashing at the hands of sinister cultists. **Morbius** and **Blade** each adventured in sinister haunted houses, in an issue headlined "Legion of Monsters," while **Roy Thomas** adapted perhaps the first-ever novel about a super hero, **Philip Wylie's** *Gladiator*, under the title, "Man-God!"

DOC SAVAGE, another of the earliest super heroes, continued to combat evil in his own black-and-white magazine. With **Monk**, **Ham**, **Renny**, **Johnny**, and **Long Tom** at his side, the Man of Bronze stormed the Inferno Fortress, swashbuckled with ghost-pirates from the beyond, dared the mystery of the Loch Ness Monster, and foiled the nefarious **Sky-Stealers**! Another black-and-white one-shot, MARVEL SUPER ACTION, encompassed a world of hard-hitting adventure: **the Punisher** in his first solo story, the origin of **the Huntress** (now **Mockingbird** of the WEST COAST AVENGERS), plus installments of *Weirdworld* and **Dominic Fortune**!

PLANET OF THE APES continued its black-and-white epics, adapting the movies, "Escape From the Planet of the Apes," "Conquest of the Planet of the Apes," and "Battle for—" well, you get the idea! All-new Apes adventures remained to dazzle and amaze, as well: **Jason** and **Alexander** discovered the **Psychedrome**, and prevented **Brutus** from obtaining an arsenal of nuclear warheads; gorilla cyborgs stalked the Forbidden Zone; **Alaric** steered his ship through the dangers of plagues and uncharted waters! It was a self-contained world of fantasy and science fiction, all springing from the series of classic films.

Marvel was publishing more than just comics and magazines at this time — there were also giant-sized color tabloids! Under the title MARVEL TREASURY EDITION, these usually carried specially selected reprints, and since we have enough to discuss with the all-new Marvel masterpieces, we haven't mentioned any reprint titles in this series. But three tabloid books released in '76 deserve special mention for their all-new material. One was the HOWARD THE DUCK Treasury Edition, which featured our fearless fowl teamed with the dynamic **Defenders**, against some of the grossest super-villains ever created! (My personal favorite was **the Black Hole**, who could suck objects and people into the endless cavity in his chest!) A second memorable tabloid was CAPTAIN AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL BATTLES — guess who it starred? The inscrutable **Mister Buda** took the Sentinel of Liberty on a round-robin tour of some of America's most desperate moments, where the shield-slinger was able to lend a hand as only he could do! This was one of two **Jack Kirby** tabloids released in '76, the other being the 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY adaptation we mentioned last month.

But the most eagerly awaited tabloid of all was the second Marvel-DC coproduction, SUPERMAN VS. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! **Luthor** and **Doctor Octopus** provided the villainy for this first Marvel/DC collaboration!

Lastly, while we're discussing tabloids, I'd be remiss in my historical duties not to mention two 1975 tabloids which were somehow omitted in our epic recounting of '75! Marvel and DC also collaborated to produce MGM's MARVELOUS WIZARD OF OZ, a beautiful adaptation of the ultimate fantasy movie for children of all ages! It was followed up by the MARVEL TREASURY OF OZ, in which the Roy Thomas and **Alfredo Alcala** team translated the next book in **L. Frank Baum's** wondrous series into comic book terms.

Next month we wrap up our retrospective on 1976, as **Conan** meets his greatest love, **Fu Manchu** plans to blow the moon out of its orbit, and **Jim Starlin** presents the strangest suicide story ever! Be there!

—*Brian Nelson*

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HULK RATE

Send your letters to: MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE, c/o Marvel Entertainment Group, 387 Park Ave. South, New York, NY 10016

Back again, eh? Well, it's a good thing, because we're going to try something a little different this month. You'll see what it is in a minute. (Is that suspense or what?)

First, though, let's hear it for James Williams of Brandon, FL, who came up with this month's snazzy letter column title! And don't forget, everybody: We need a brand-spanking-new letter column title every month, so if you've got an idea kicking around in the back of your heads, send it on in! If we use it, we'll even print your name in this space to say "thanks."

It's kind of appropriate that this month's title is a pun on the term "bulk rate," because this time, we're going to try answering a greater bulk of letters than usual. Instead of printing and answering a handful of letters like we do each month, we're going to try to squeeze in as many of your comments and questions as we posibly can! Ready? Here goes!

Let's kick things off with some mail from comics collectors old and new. **Chad Peckam** of Wymong, Mich. writes, "I'm thirteen years old and I just started collecting comic books. I was wondering if you could give me some names of comic books to start reading as a beginner." Well, Chad, there are so many comics we'd like to recommend that we really don't know where to begin! And besides, while we could tell you what comics *we* like best, that doesn't necessarily mean *you'll* like them too. A good idea for you might be to browse through the "Coming Attractions" section in each issue of MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE. See what comics look interesting to you, then get a hold of them for yourself. That way, you'll find out which ones you like from the best judge in the world — you! ***Turning the focus to collecting older comics, **Alan McCormick** of Currie, NC asks us to help him find mail-order companies that sell the back issues he needs to complete his collection of GODZILLA and SHOGUN WARIORS; he also asks how many issues of each series were published. There were 20 issues of SHOGUN WARRIORS, Alan, and everyone's favorite radiation-breathing reptile, **Godzilla**, held his own series for 24 issues. As for finding back issues by mail, why not check the advertisements found in most Marvel comics? We bet you'll find lots of possibilities. Happy hunting!

An awful lot of people have been writing in to suggest new Limited Series. **Joey Hanna** of Memphis, TN asks for a new GHOST RIDER series. **Stephen S. Farnham** of Allston, MA wants to see that silver-haired speedster, **Quicksilver**, in his own title. **Kris Shaow** of Lincoln Park, Mich. is hoping for THE UNTOLD TALES OF THE SENSATIONAL SPIDER-MAN, which would feature flashback stories pitting the wall-crawler against some of his deadliest old foes, such as the **Green Goblin** and **Morbius the Living Vampire**. **William Blevins** of Ferndale, Mich. casts votes for the **Sub-Mariner**, **Ka-Zar**, **Dr. Doom**, the **Black Panther**, **Hercules**, and the **Sandman**. Providence, RI's **Daimon Anderson** would like to see international heroes such as Israel's **Sabra** and France's **Le Peregrine**. **Tyson Schneider** of Trafalgar, IN is crossing his fingers for new series for **Moon Knight** and **Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.** And **Jim Darin** of Naperville, IL is dying for a series featuring the entire mighty-muscled **Unlimited Class Wrestling Federation**!

Some suggestions have even come in for characters from outside comics! **James MacLean** of Detroit, MI would like to see us adapt **J.R.R. Tolkien's** classic fantasy books, THE HOBBIT and THE LORD OF THE RINGS. And on the movie and TV front: **Darren Sheehan** thinks the hit film *Crocodile Dundee* would make a great comic book. And Canada's **Devon McCaugherty** and Clio, Michigan's **Jeff Rosenberg** and **Aaron Geister** think the same about *Robocop* (following up on the MARVEL SUPER-SPECIAL that adapted the movie). To top it off, **Karl Lock** of far-off New Zealand suggests adapting the New World Pictures' TV sensation *Sledge Hammer* as a Marvel series.

And just in case you thought we forgot, **Ross White** of Chevy Chase, MD wants to see the ultimate comic book, a FORBUSH MAN Limited Series!

Well, folks, we might not be able to please all of you just now (sorry, Ross, no FORBUSH MAN series), but we are indeed following up on several of the ideas you suggested! Our brand-new BLACK PANTHER and S.H.I.E.L.D. series should be hitting the stands any day now. And you've probably already seen the Marvel Comics version of SLEDGE HAMMER. But what you might not know is that there are plans for a new HERCULES Limited Series in the works! It's still too early to say much about HERCULES, but keep your eyes peeled for future developments!

Of course, there's no reason to be disappointed if we haven't mentioned your favorite hero. After all, you never know where our cavortin' characters are going to appear next! For instance, you can catch Moon Knight every lunar cycle (that's "month" to you) in WEST COAST AVENGERS, and Quicksilver just returned to make trouble for the **Avengers** team. And speaking of THE AVENGERS, **William Blevins** (not to mention the rest of us) won't want to miss the next issue or two, because if he does, he'll miss out on one of the most dramatic episodes ever in the life of the savage Sub-Mariner!

Hey, you know what? **David DeWarle** of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan in Canada just reminded us that 'way back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #47, we said that if anyone ever suggested another Limited Series, we'd cancel THE X-MEN! Well, guess that's it for the X-MEN.

No, no, just kidding. Put down those hatchets.

Whew, that was close.

Speaking of the X-Men, it looks like the events surrounding the recent Fall of the Mutants are stirring up almost

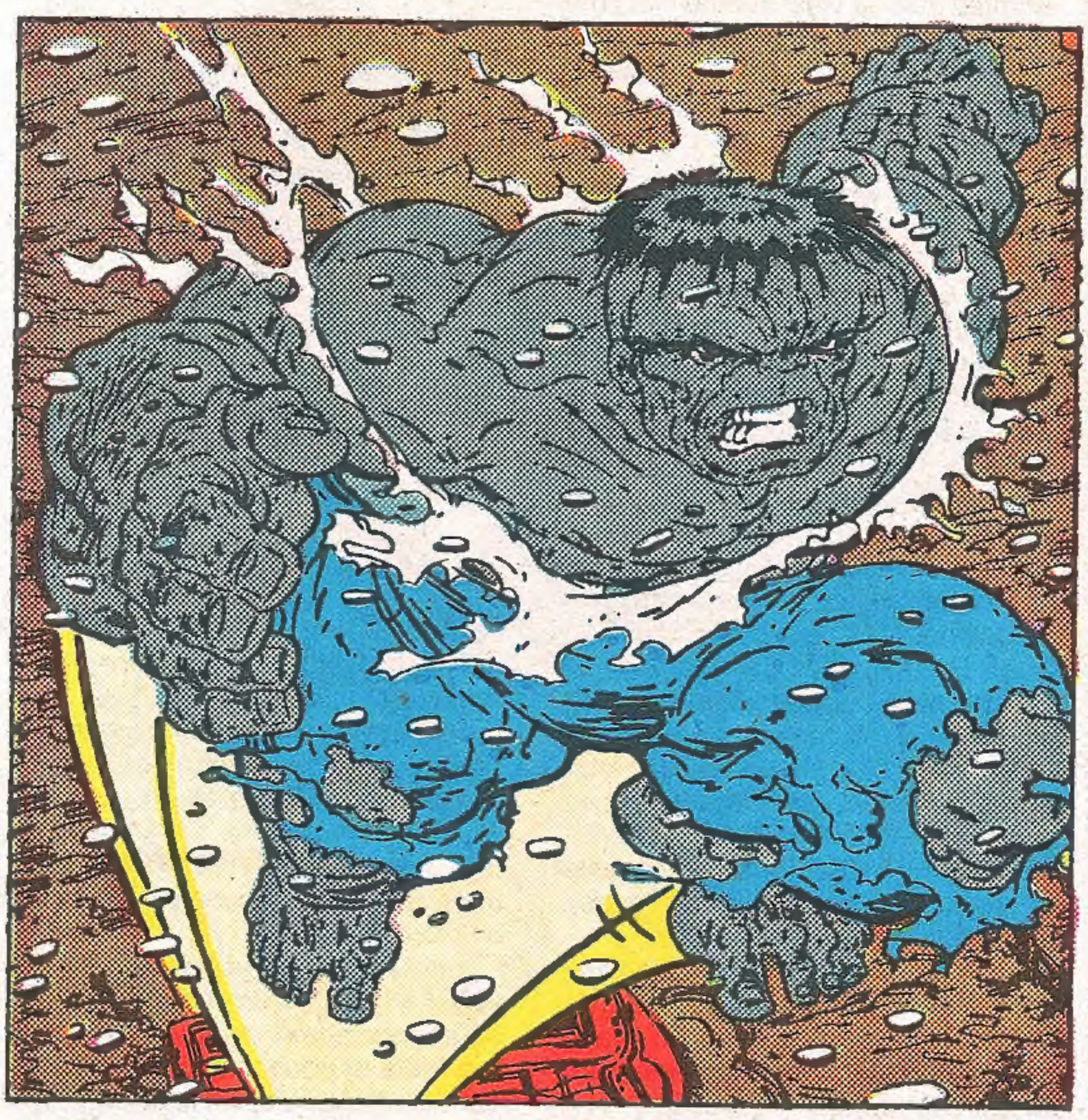
as much reaction in the real world as they are in the Marvel Universe! One correspondent who signs himself or herself **"A Concerned Mutant Citizen"** says that in the wake of the new Mutant Registration Act, "as a mutant myself, I feel that my legal rights as a citizen of the United States are being slowly withdrawn . . . Now I realize the need to protect other citizens from the threat of those mutants who use their gifts violently, but this registration is sudden, and there are those that opose such a scrutinous segregation to the point that they are ready to do something that would otherwise be violent and against their nature . . . Perhaps you should wait until the next general census of U.S. citizens and include mutant registration documents within this. I myself will refuse to register until such a time as it can be dealt with in a discreet manner." Not a bad thought, A.C.M.C., but it looks like the Mutant Registration Act may have already started to do its damage! Keep a close eye on THE X-MEN, THE NEW MUTANTS, and X-FACTOR for late-breaking news. Oh, and maybe you'd better register sooner than you planned; if you don't, you're breaking the law — and you won't be able to get a student loan, either! ***While anti-mutant hysteria might be causing havoc in the Marvel Universe, **Randy McGow** managed to find a constructive way to learn from it in the real world. "When a kid in one of my classes said that we should nuke the Iranians and get rid of them all, I immediately started saying that we shouldn't condemn them all just because they are Iranians. And then I thought to myself, 'Hey, those people at Marvel have some really good ideas, and most of them pertain to the real world!' " He writes. "Thanks for letting me see the better side of a controversial subject." Glad our merry mutants could help you out, Randy! And we're even happier that you spoke up to your classmate. We all know that people should never be condemned for what they are, even if they're mutants, Iranians, or blue-eared men from Mars. But sometimes we forget, and that's why we need people like you to remind us. Way to go, pal!

Normally, this space is devoted to the LETTER OF THE MONTH, a letter that stands out so much that we have no choice but to print it against a nifty-looking canary yellow background. However, since we're printing more letters than usual this month, we're going to use this space to excerpt not one, not two, but *ten* letters! Hey, nobody said this job was easy.

Back in MARVEL AGE MAGAZINE #s 56 and 61, our Letters of the Month came from a few people who were concerned that too many Marvel storylines were focusing on death, suicide, and other such topics. When we asked the rest of you to write with your opinions, we never expected the volume of mail that came pouring in! We received many intelligent arguments on each side of the issue. Here's a sample:

"Depressing storylines do seem to be the craze," says **Chris Nye** of Blythewood, CA. "Let's go back 45–50 years ago. A kid could walk into a simple dime store or newsstand, plunk down one dime, and walk away with 64 pages of true thrills and fun. Now maybe this comic wasn't on the highest level of sophistication, its artistic levels crude, but it was all in fun . . . Where do you get the idea that comics should be like real life? I read comics to escape, not to become even more depressed." Rodeo, CA's **Jeff Casillas** agrees: "I appreciate your realism, but try not to focus on so much emotional stress, and focus on a little more 'good guy beats bad guy, gets girl, and rides off into the sunset,' because some of us are starting to forget what that's like." "Marvel has often made the statement that 'We don't set out to create role models,' " observes **Thomas Wheeler** of Tuscon, AZ, "but whether you're trying to or not, that's what you're doing. And there's a famous phrase, 'With great power comes great responsibility,' " **Lynda-Marie Hauptman** of Seattle, WA adds, "I'd really rather read triumph stories, like **Tony Stark's** recent battle with alcoholism . . . Tony is the only Marvel hero I know of besides **Captain America** who is not plagued by despair in every single panel of his comic book." Summing up this side of the debate, **Eric Hartman** of Levittown, NY writes, "I know this world isn't perfect and the comic book world isn't either, but as **Magneto** said in X-MEN #200, 'Unlike others, I have the power to do something about it!' "

On the other side of the debate, **Jon Bocek** of Ft. Collins, CO says, "I totally disagree with the idea that there has been a decline in the quality of your comics. If anything, they've gotten better. If nobody died and every comic had a happy ending, that would be unrealistic; I mean, with all the fights heroes get into, some of them are bound to die once in a while. Also, there aren't as many unhappy endings as some people are saying there are. There are just as many (if not more) happy ones as there are unhappy ones." "Too many people put down comics because they view comics as unrealistic," writes someone who'd rather remain anonymous. "Maturity and realism are things I highly value, and to see comics disintegrate into fairy tales like you suggest would kill me . . . By the way, if you think comics promote suicide, try reading THE



NEW MUTANTS #45 [in which **Kitty Pryde** deals with a friend's suicide] sometime." Voluntown, CT's **Timothy Binder** adds, "The hero is still the underdog against unbeatable odds but now, he doesn't always win. But he has a personality and problems which make him a human being just like everyone else in our society. And that's why I read Marvel comics." **Bryan Fennell** of Canada thinks our characters are basically the same as they've always been: "You have provided good role models with your characters, particularly Captain America and **Thor**. With **Spider-Man**, you have portrayed someone with the same problems as the reader." And **Miller Him** of Montebello, CA states his view simply: "No death, no life, right?"

There's quite a mix of sentiment in there. But like we've said before, we'd rather refrain from throwing our own two cents in. Instead, we'd like to hear what you people have to say on the issue.

But before we put this discussion on the back burner again, we want to mention a letter we recently received from **Alan Michael**, one of the people who started the whole debate in the first place. Alan says: "I think our argument still stands, but I'm glad to say the tone in your books has gotten much better. I am just about to write a letter of apology and thanks to **Louise Simonson** after reading X-FACTOR #22, which featured **Boom-Boom's** speech about how wrong **Angel's** attempted suicide was. For the first time in too long, I actually believed there to be some hope for those characters." Glad to see you think our work is improving, Alan! Keep in touch.

Before we wrap up this special, industrial-strength letter column, we want to say "thanks" to a bunch of people who've been kind enough to send us their renditions of some of our favorite Marvel characters! A hearty pat on the back goes out to: **Brett Harris** of Hamilton, New Zealand; **Randy Garcia** of Azusa, CA; **Roberto Pereira de Deus** of San Diego, CA; **Bret Schulte** of Burlington, KY (lots of chuckles in there, Bret!); **Jason Millet** of Plaquemine, LA; **Bill Deubot** of Ridgewood, NJ; and **Peter Smith** of North Bay, Ontario, Canada. And by the way, everybody interested in trying to become a comics professional knows they can always submit their works to Marvel using the guidelines outlined in THE OFFICIAL MARVEL COMICS TRY-OUT BOOK (available at better bookstores everywhere), right? Yup, we thought so.

Another hasty but heartfelt "thank you" goes to all those guys and gals who've sent in great ideas for brand new characters! Thanks very much to: **Bryan Schulman** of Brooklyn, NY; **Robert Went** of Berkely, CA; **Roland L. Teters** of Spokane, WA; **Matt Albrecht** (hope we spelled your name correctly, Matt!); **Ace Domino** of Toccoa, GA; **John Cochran** of Louisville, KY; **Kurt Stream** of Oregon, WI; **Frederick Thompson** of Los Angeles, CA; **Sean Donnelly** of Easton, PA; **Eric Downer** of Cambridge, Ontario; **Pete Swanson** of Rockford, IL; **Jon Hoydic** of West Branch, MI; **James Griffith** of Bowie, MD; **Craig Shapley** of Kannapolis, MI; **Billy Skasilas** of Astoria, NY; **Edward Charles Olkowski** of Oakland, CA; **Mike McGrath** and **Ted Hajnasiewce** of Crystal, NJ; **Robert Judges** and **Christopher Hogg** of Toronto, Ontario; and **Nguyen Hoang** of Langley, B.C., Canada. There were some really great ideas in there, gang, but unfortunately, our writers and artists keep insisting that we use their characters first . . . and if you ever saw what a motley crew our writers and artists are, you'd know why we don't want to make them unhappy!

But seriously, we're not so much looking for great new characters as we're looking for great new *stories!* The star of the tale should be one of our heroes. And if it also features someone you created, that's fine with us. But before you send your adventure to us, first bounce it off people who can help you make it the best it can be like your friends, relatives, teachers, pen pals . . .

And speaking of pen pals . . .

That's right! It's time once again for the Marvel Age Pen Pals Column! Here are some more gregarious guys and gals who are looking for people to write to all over the world. Why not drop 'em a line? But one word of advice: Stay away from anyone whose address is the royal castle of Latveria!

Incidentally, if you'd like to be listed in this column yourself, just send your name, address, age, and the titles of your three favorite Marvel Comics to Marvel Age Pen Pals at the address atop this letter column.

Oh, one last announcement: Next month, we'll unveil the brand new title of the Pen Pal Column. Don't be the only one in your neighborhood to miss it!

Phil A. Jurozewski
9205 S. Ridgeway
Evergreen Park, IL 60642
Age: 16
Favorites: THE NEW MUTANTS, AVENGERS, IRON MAN

R.P.S.N. Follie Davison
U.S.S. Seattle AOE-3
F.P.O. NY 09587-3014
Age: 19
Favorites: THE 'NAM, ALPHA FLIGHT, G.I. JOE

Troy Pracy
530 President Ave.
Sutherland, 2232
N.S.W., AUSTRALIA
Age: 15
Favorites: X-MEN, AVENGERS, X-FACTOR

Justin Horton
3392 Kildare
Cleveland Hts., OH 44118
Age: 12
Favorites: G.I. JOE, X-MEN, FANTASTIC FOUR

Robert Adair
P.O. Box 8
Alderson, W. VA. 24910
Age: 13
Favorites: X-FACTOR, X-MEN, NEW MUTANTS

John McEvoy
5840 N. Emerson Ave.
Indianapolis, IN 46220
Age: 14
Favorites: TRANSFORMERS, SPIDER-MAN, MARVEL SAGA

Bernie Won
32 Hallam Rd.
Markham, Ontario
L3P 5Y9 CANADA
Age: 13
Favorites: G.I. JOE, WEST COAST AVENGERS, PUNISHER

Russell Brodie
9 Trinity Crescent
Edinburg, EH5 3ED
UNITED KINGDOM
Age: 13
Favorites: POWER PACK, X-MEN, AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

Donald "Doc" Vega
PO Box 39
Brooklyn, NY 11221
Age: Didn't say
Favorites: X-MEN, AVENGERS, FANTASTIC FOUR

Seymour Manning
20 Langler Rd.
Kensal Rise
London NW10 5TL
ENGLAND
Age: 19
Favorites: IRON MAN, SILVER SURFER, HULK

ANSWERS TO MARVEL TRIVIA QUIZ

1. C	6. B	11. A	16. C
2. C	7. C	12. C	17. B
3. C	8. C	13. C	18. C
4. C	9. D	14. A	19. D
5. B	10. C	15. A	20. B

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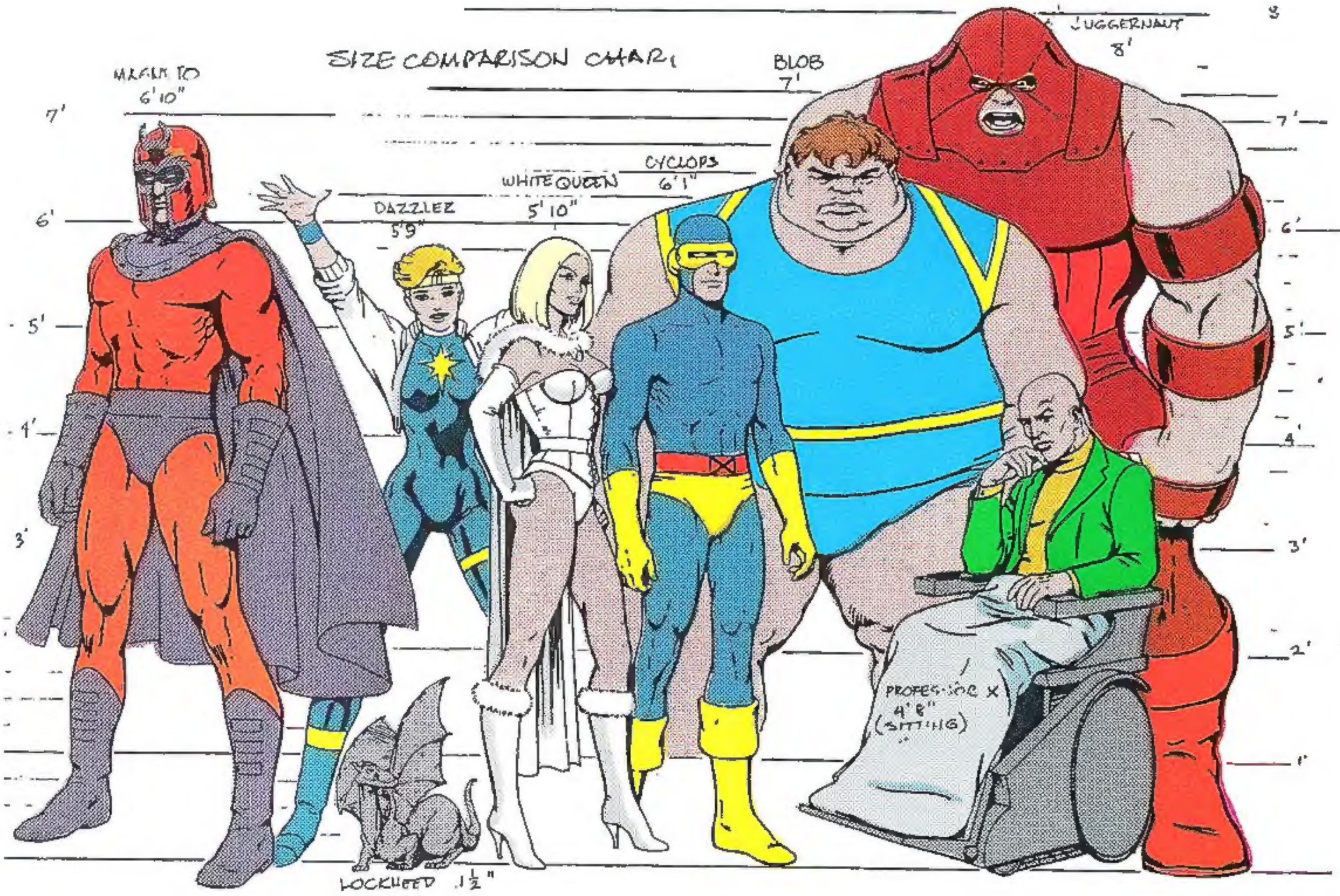

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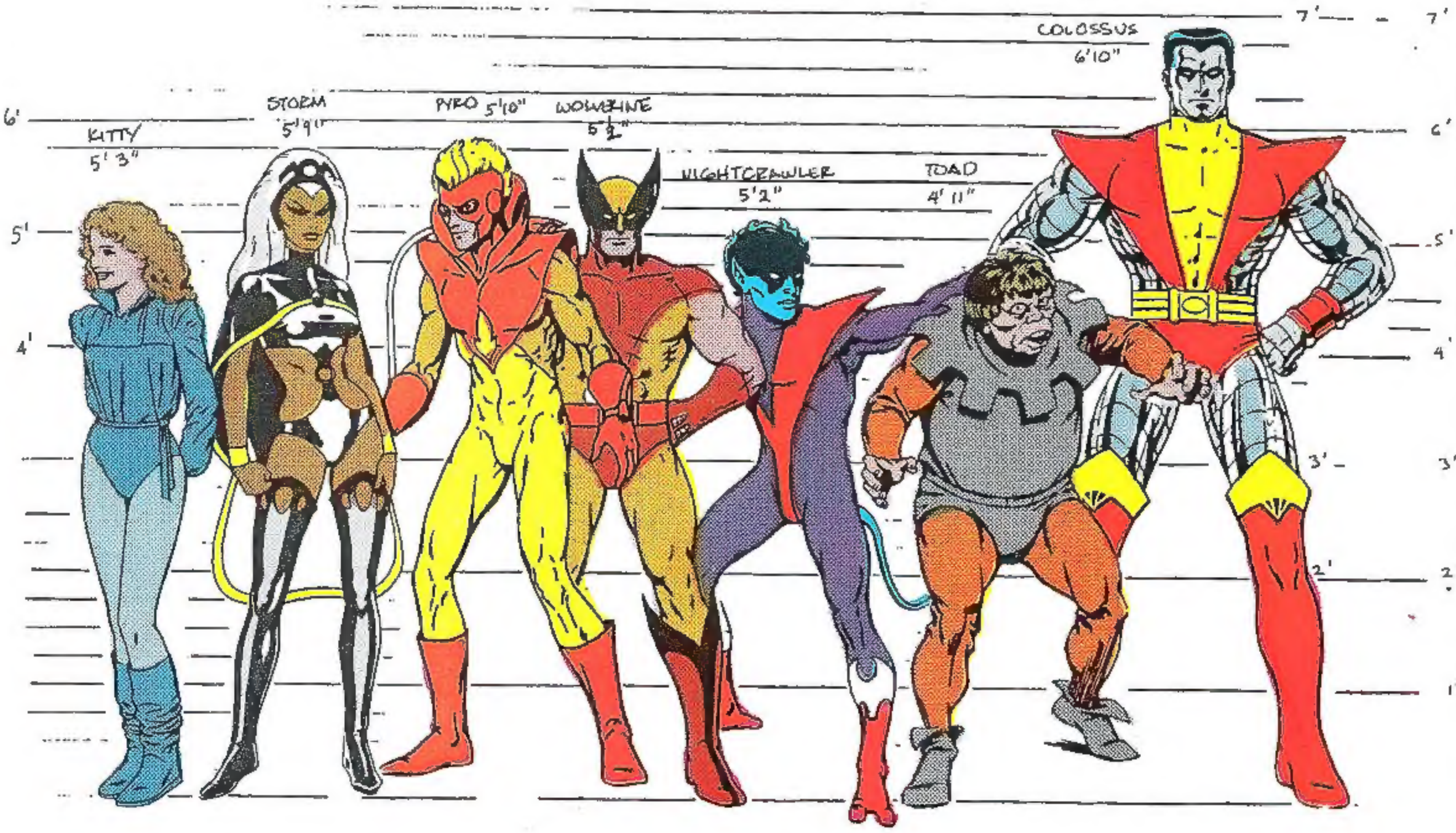

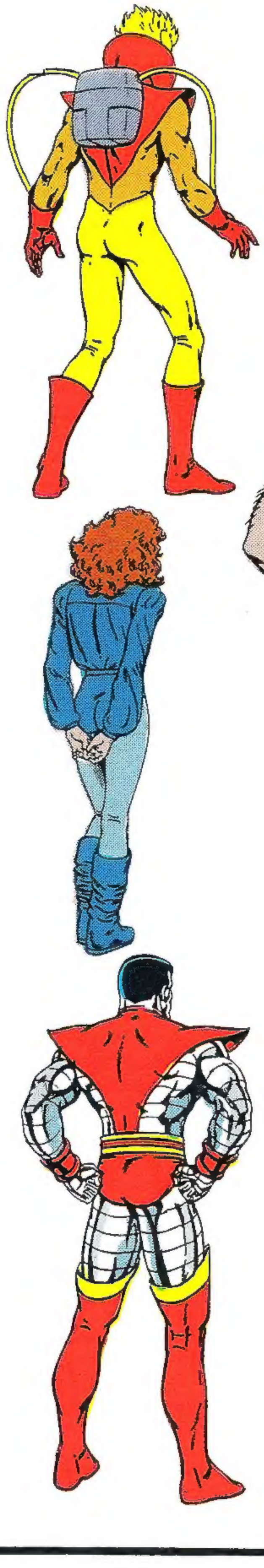

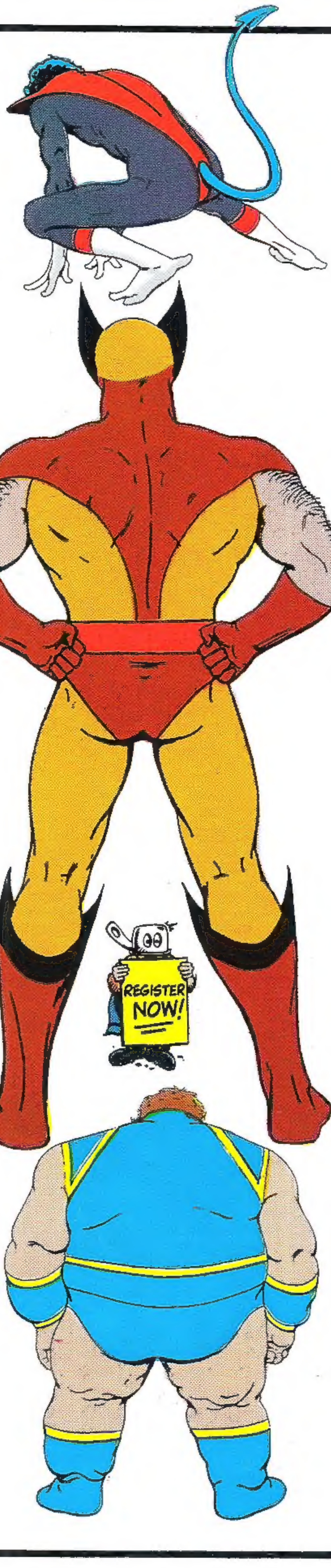
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